

Hafa Adai!

New rehab center caters to 35 minors. **PAGE 2**

House considering exempting canoes from excise tax. **PAGE 3**

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75¢

PSS salary hike plan questioned

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
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REPORTER

A lawmaker has reached out to the Public School System as well as the Board of Education to address concerns regarding reported disparities between instructors and administrative employees of the system.



Demapan

Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan) said yesterday that he has recently requested BOE chair Marylou Ada for a copy of the PSS salary increase plan after numerous reports have been circulating regarding the difference in increases on the administrative side compared to increases for the instructors.

According to Demapan, Rep. Edwin Aldan (R-Tinian), who also chairs the House Committee on Edu-

cation, brought up the issue in yesterday's House Ways and Means Committee meeting.

"...We have received calls from constituents; some of them are teach-

ers who have been asking questions on the salary increases that PSS has implemented specifically for the administrators and administrative

See PSS on Page 4

Ada reelected as BOE chair



BEA CABRERA

Board of Education chair Marylou Ada, center, at the BOE regular board meeting held yesterday on Capitol Hill.

By **BEA CABRERA**
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REPORTER

The CNMI Board of Education unanimously agreed to maintain the status quo of elected officers in fiscal year 2018.

The agency that oversees the CNMI Public School System elected its officers for fiscal year 2018 yesterday making Marylou Ada the chairwoman, Janice Tenorio the vice chairwoman, and Herman Atalig as secretary/treasurer for another term during its first regular meeting of the year on Capitol Hill.

After Atalig's reelection as secre-

tary/treasurer, he expressed that he will assume the job only if the board follows the by-laws strictly.

"I am looking at the by-laws of the BOE, the duties and responsibilities... I would assume that job if we

follow the by-laws because there is a strict duty for secretary and treasurer," he said.

"I want my colleagues to support me...and review the by-laws because it has strict responsibilities and I would enforce those responsibilities," he added.

Ada assured Atalig that as the sec-

See ADA on Page 4



BEA CABRERA

Work continues at the Winchell's Donuts Susupe branch after the closure of their Garapan branch last Monday.

Winchell's Donuts Garapan closes

By **BEA CABRERA**
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REPORTER

The Winchell's Donuts branch in Garapan officially closed its doors last Monday, a move that surprised many who have come to love the

fastfood pastry shop that has been doing business on Saipan the past 31 years.

While its Garapan location has been shuttered, Winchell's Donuts in Susupe across Kanoa Resort remains open.

Winchell's Susupe sales clerk Thelma Dacumos, who was stationed in Garapan, said that prior to Monday, they did not have an idea

See WINCHELL'S on Page 4

INSIDE



LOCAL

Catholic church officials in Guam say they have notified the Vatican of a new sexual abuse allegation against Archbishop Anthony Apuron.

PAGE 13

California leads in DACA recipients

Number of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program (DACA) initial applications approved, in thousands:

California	223
Texas	121

NATION

A federal judge on Tuesday night temporarily blocked the Trump administration's decision to end a program protecting young immigrants from deportation.

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LIFE & STYLE

The New York Times has canceled a public event with James Franco days after the Golden Globe winner was accused of sexual misconduct.

PAGE 21



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GOT A NEWS TIP?

TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

New drug rehab center caters to 35 minors

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

A new rehabilitation center that caters to substance abusing minors is currently serving 35 individuals.

The Systems of Care is a newly established program under the Commonwealth

Healthcare Corp.'s community guidance center. The program works to help teens overcome the urge to abuse substances such as methamphetamine.

During last Tuesday's Rotary Club of Saipan weekly meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Giovanni's

Restaurant, Systems of Care lead licensed therapist Kimberly Mendiola enlightened Rotary Club members about the basics of the program.

According to Mendiola, the program officially launched on January 2017 and has already enrolled 35 individuals.

She said the program will respond to the needs of the community, meaning there is no limit to how many individuals the clinic can enroll. "We assist as many families as we can," said Mendiola.

The program offers one-on-one counseling with each individual, teaches coping mechanisms for possible

triggers, assistance in the establishment of goals for those enrolled in the program, and activities for the youth to engage in to build healthier relationships.

The program caters to individuals as young as 5 and as old as 21. The program accepts referrals from anyone but so far, the clinic has been receiving

most of their referrals from partner agencies like the Division of Youth Services.

The clinic is currently located at the Oleai Alexander Royale building but will soon transfer to a clinic in San Antonio.

For more information or for referrals, feel free to contact Systems of Cares at 664-4608.

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SLIM DOWN DEBT

CNMI Homeless Coalition seeking volunteers, sponsors

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

The CNMI Homeless Coalition is preparing for its second homeless count this January and is in the process of recruiting volunteers and sponsors.

It will be conducting its 2nd Annual Point in Time Homeless Count to avail for the Continuum of Care grant through the U.S. Department for Housing and Urban Development program.

The count is prerequisite for every community that receives federal funds for programs that aid the homeless, particularly the COC grant.

The coalition held a general membership meeting last Jan. 4 at the Division of Youth Services conference room.

During the meeting, it was decided that the official count date will be on Jan. 27 and the orientation will be held on Jan. 19 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center from 1:30pm to 4:30pm.

According to Northern Marianas Housing Corp. environmental officer Jacob Muña, the coalition is now encouraging interested sponsors and volunteers to contact him.

The coalition is looking for sponsors to donate amenities that will be given out

to the homeless during the count, and for volunteers to conduct the count and give out surveys.

Muña said that the last count did not give them the result they were hoping for, which was a grant approval, but they are determined to continue to the count as an annual event and continue to submit COC grant applications.

The coalition is a non-profit group under NMHC that aims to lower the number of homeless people in the Marianas.

Interested volunteers and sponsors can contact Muna at 234-7670 or email him at jj-muna@nmhc.gov.mp.

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Member FDIC

House considering exempting canoes from excise tax

By ERWIN ENCINARES

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REPORTER

While no particular action has been held at the committee level yesterday, several members of the House of Representatives are seriously considering exempting canoes from being taxed in order to be involved with a philanthropic organization.

Several members of the House Ways and Means Committee agreed yesterday in the meeting that the intent of Rep. Ivan A. Blanco's (R-Saipan) House Bill 20-142, a bill seeking to exempt canoes from being subjected to excise tax, was one that they supported.

According to Emma Perez, 500 Sails board chair and Okeanos Sustainable Sea Transport LTD managing director, having canoes exempted from excise tax was one of the requirements to be involved with the Okeanos Foundation for the Sea, a group that seeks to revive traditional navigation and canoeing to replace fossil-fueled means of seafaring.

With minor technical changes to the language of the bill, Ways and Means chair Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan) opted to defer action until the committee obtains the comments of both Department of Finance Secretary Larissa Larson and Division of Customs director Jose C. Mafnas.

"[The bill] is an excise tax amendment to provide an exemption for traditional canoes that are donated for the purpose of enhancing the cultural and indigenous practices of the indigenous people," said Demapan, adding that in this case, Okeanos Marianas—a traditional Polynesian canoe donated by the Okeanos Foundation—was subject to an excise tax of about \$40,000 to \$45,000.

"At this point, the organization is a not-for-profit and the \$45,000 tax that is being levied [imposed] on them is very hefty and something that they cannot afford," he added. "In principle, the members of the committee are in support of this bill however we withheld our final action today to allow the Division of Customs and the Secretary of Finance to submit comments on this proposed legislation."

If both Customs and Finance fail to respond to the committee's solicitation of comments within 10 days, the committee would vote for the legislation without their input, Demapan said yesterday.

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Laszlo is new CARE director

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Advocates of Recovery Efforts group welcomes their new director after the departure of former director Jenny Hegland.

Hegland was CARE CNMI's former director and helped kick start the recovery efforts on the island after the

devastation of Typhoon Soudelor.

Hegland left her position as director to pursue other opportunities in the mainland in late December 2017 and she will be greatly missed by the many individuals she assisted during their time of need, and especially by the CARE family.



Laszlo

On Jan. 2, 2018, former Americorps Vista resource development coordinator for CARE, Maxine Laszlo, assumed Hegland's position.

From the very beginning of the establishment of CARE, Laszlo stood by Hegland's side and their

efforts together, along with many others, aided in the restoration of the Commonwealth after Soudelor.

After Hegland gave up her position, the CARE board of directors allowed for an open application and Laszlo was selected as the new director.

According to CARE board president Alex Sablan, the board of directors have full confidence in Laszlo's leadership to carry out the mission of CARE and complete the remain-

ing homes of the remaining CARE families.

As of right now, Laszlo is

holding off on public comments until the CARE annual meeting on Jan. 24.

Man gets 33 months in jail after pleading guilty for domestic violence

A man charged with assault and battery, interfering with a domestic violence report, and disturbing the peace last year, pled guilty and was sentenced to two years and nine months imprisonment by Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth H. Govendo yesterday.

Jose Magundayao pled guilty to the charges set before him.

On Jan. 30, 2017, Magundayao strangled and grabbed the victim's arm when she attempted to escape from him.

During investigation, Magundayao was found to knowingly interfered with the victim who was reporting or attempting to report a crime of domestic violence to a law enforcement agency.

Magundayao was found to unlawfully and willfully

commit an act that unreasonably annoyed or disturbed the peace of the victim, depriving her of her peace and quiet by threatening to kill her.

Aside from imprisonment, the court sentenced Magundayao other conditions that he has to meet to serve the sentence.

The judgment order further stated that in the event that Magundayao fails to comply with any of the conditions, except for conviction of minor traffic infractions, it should be a ground for revocation of probation and/or contempt of court charges.

The CNMI was represented by assistant attorney general Teri Tenorio and Magundayao was represented by assistant public defender Nancy Dominski.

Chamber's BPOY garners 6 nominees

Six prominent businesspersons have been nominated for the 2017 Business Person of the Year award of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

The nominees are Velma Palacios and Rose Soledad, both of IT&E; Tyrell Pauling of Hyatt Regency Saipan; Jay Santos of Triple J Whole-

sale; Yoshihito Shibahata of Pacific Islands Club; and Ivan Quichocho of TanHoldings Corp.

According to Chamber executive director Jill M. Arenovski, the six have accepted their nominations.

"Now the process moves to judging," she said in an email

message to Chamber members.

The winner will be announced at the Business Person of the Year Gala on Jan. 27 at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

"Our [gala] will focus on these nominees, and what they do for our community. We know you will enjoy get-

ting to know them better," said Arenovski.

The gala used to be called the Chamber's "Installation Dinner," signifying the installation of the organization's new officers and board members. This year, the theme for the evening is masquerade; some masks will be available for photo taking. *(Saipan Tribune)*

WINCHELL'S

From Page 1

that management was going to close the Garapan branch.

"It was abrupt and we did not know that we will close down the Garapan branch. A lot of our equipment is still there and other employees are moving them right now. I do know that the lessor wanted the space back," she said.

Dacumos said the closure could have something to do with issues on the current lease contract of the building that

housed the Garapan branch.

"As far as I know, our contract lease in Garapan was supposed to run for five years and we have only consumed two years of that," she said.

Customer Annie Lopena, a Garapan resident, said she heard that the Winchell's branch in Garapan closed last Friday.

"I was surprised and now that we need to drive all the way from Garapan to Susupe to buy donuts is inconvenient. Like today, if we didn't drop by the post office in Chalan Kanoa, we wouldn't be here in

their Susupe branch, their only branch now," she said.

"Winchell's is our 'go-to-place' whenever my 10-year-old daughter, Tricia, wants a quick snack and when she has pot luck gathering with her friends because aside from the taste, they are really affordable and we know they met U.S. standards in preparing the food," she added.

Twenty-one-year-old Maria Valencia considers herself a Winchell's baby as she grew up patronizing the store.

"I feel like the closure of the Garapan branch is a waste

because they just moved there as they used to be where Cha Café is now. I also feel sad because Winchell's Garapan was close to everything like the hospital," she added.

Winchell's Susupe branch is the only branch standing at this point, fervently serving the community in many ways they know how.

"I would like to hope that we are going to open another branch somewhere so we could fill the closure of the Garapan branch and still cater to our regular customers," Dacumos said.

PSS

From Page 1

staff," said Demapan.

He added that several teachers have reached out to the lawmakers on the issue.

"...The teachers are questioning the percentage increase wherein there may have been significant increase on the administrative side...that are far greater

than what was implemented on the teacher's side."

Demapan specified that because of this, he personally requested for a copy of the salary compensation plan from BOE chairwoman Ada.

"[Ada] informed me that BOE is currently in the process of putting [the plan] together to submit to my office for the committee's review," he said.

The Ways and Means Com-

mittee in their last committee meeting adopted House Bill 20-147, which proposed to allocate a total of \$12 million from the Casino Gross Revenue Tax to school facility repairs and upgrades, federal matching funds, purchase of instructional materials, employee health insurance, payment of loans, and other aspects of PSS.

While H.B. 20-147 did not include allocations for

salary increases, Demapan said an amendment to the appropriation bill was not necessary.

"The appropriation we are providing for PSS is for other operational needs that they fell short of in the general fund budget," he said, adding that a large bulk of the appropriation were for the purchasing of instructional materials, buses and vans, and more.



ERWIN ENCINARES

Rep. Frank Aguon (R-Saipan) organizes his paperwork after the House Ways and Means Committee meeting, while minority leader Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) and Rep. Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) converse.

ADA

From Page 1

retary/treasurer, he has the full support and cooperation of the board.

Before the nomination and election of the officers was reached, board members voiced out their opinions of having the same set of leadership in the board.

Atalig voiced out his thoughts when he said that members who will sit as officers of the board should be rotated.

"I totally feel that it should be rotated. I commend the present chair for doing a great job. However, we need to give other people an opportunity to be chair as Ada had been our chair four times already," he said.

"Any of us can sit as chair if all of us unite and work as one team and my goal and dream is for us to work together... in my mind, I think Florine (Hofschneider) or Janice (Tenorio) be the chair to continue whatever Marylou (Ada) has not finished as her goals because we could all pitch in and help that person," he added.

Atalig said that he doesn't want to be chair and thinks that it's time for Tinian and Janice Tenorio to be nurtured and mentored.

Hofschneider shared Atalig's sentiments about the board leadership developing each board member.

"It (chair position) offers different point of view, different way of managing the board because the board as an entity sets the tone and not the chair. The chair simply administers what is needed to make

it work... having the same chair should be done with the consent of every member," she said.

"It's truly fair that each one of us an opportunity... to be chair you need to be able to navigate the political scenery of the CNMI and I am not one of them so forget that. We need to be realistic of what we can and cannot do, our strengths and weaknesses," she added.

Board member Herman Guerrero said that every member is authorized to nominate any candidate they see fit.

"If they want somebody else they can nominate as that is a democratic system. Whether they like it or not, let's move on and decide who has the votes. A nomination is a prerogative of every member of the board," he said.

For the board chair position, Ada was first to be nominated and Tenorio second. However, the latter declined the nomination.

Tenorio thanked the members that nominated her but maintains that Ada should still be the chair. "I decline this time and maintain that Ada as chair," she said.

In a later interview, Tenorio said the continuity of the officers is good for the Public School System, which BOE oversees.

"We will continue to support the initial start-up of projects, ongoing procedures and developments in the system...we have a very good team," she said.

"I understand the rotation but I believe in continuing the (tenure) officers so as not to disrupt the continuing growth and shared goals with the administrators and teachers of our schools," she added.

SAIPAN GUIDE

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

American Memorial Park Visitor Center gift shop sales supervisor Shoko Calvert, second from left, presents Walt Goodridge, left, with a gift in recognition of his consistent efforts to bring tourist visitors and customers to the center. Others in photo are, from left, Jennifer Rosario (sales rep), Brooke Nevitt (lead park ranger) and Jovannalyn Mafnas (educational specialist, Pacific Historic Parks)



DYS to partner with Learning Disabilities Association of Hawaii

The Division of Youth Services under the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs has recently entered into a partnership agreement with the Learning Disabilities Association of Hawaii (LDAH), the lead agency for the Hawaii and Pacific Island Parent Training and Information Center.

According to DYS Administrator Vivian Sablan, for the next two years, the division will receive a total of \$40,716 in funding to provide services and activities that will include the “provision of education and training, information and resources, and individual assistance including technical assistance and advocacy for parents and family members of children with disabilities and other special needs, as selected for the CNMI.”

“We are very pleased to partner with a regional program that provides resources for mentoring and advocacy for parents and their families. At the same time, we hope to strengthen education and training,” Sablan said.

Secretary of Community and Cultural Affairs Robert Hunter expressed that partnerships across the community and region strengthen youth services.

“As of 2015, LDAH works with its new partners to bring parent training services to American Samoa, Guam, the Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. This education and training is essential to skill building for parents, families as well as caregivers. With the mission of DYS and the partnership with LDAH, the additional goal is to ensure all children with disabilities receive proper assistance,” Hunter said.

Sablan further added that the DYS Family & Youth Enhancement Program Parent Education Services, which oversees the coordination of all DYS parenting classes, parent development workshops and the CNMI Parents Anonymous, Inc., will be spearheading all the approved activities under the LDAH funding.

“This new funding source is key to strengthening direct and supportive services under the

Family and Youth Enhancement Program Parent Education Services for Saipan, Tinian and Rota, specifically in servicing parents and family members of children with disabilities, youth with disabilities, educators and other professionals who serve children and youth with disabilities,” Sablan said.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres shared that regional partnerships improve services community-wide, especially since the division is multifunctional and allows for continuity in services for complex problems such as child abuse and neglect, juvenile delinquency, youth violence, and other related problems plaguing families.

“DYS plays a vital role in working with families and the community, and this funding is a welcoming addition to meeting the needs of our diverse population. I commend the division for reaching out to stakeholders to address the needs of youth services and the most vulnerable. Skill building and mentoring will go a long way in promoting the well-being of children, youth, families, and the community as a whole,” Torres said. (PR)

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 Tel.: 234-7859
 Fax: 234-5750

Attorney for Petitioner/Claimant Marianas Public Land Trust
**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE
 COMMONWEALTH OF THE
 NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

Civil Action
 No. 11-0197

IN THE MATTER OF
 THE ESTATE OF:
 LILY A. HOCOG,
 Deceased.

NOTICE OF HEARING ON
 MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND
 TRUST TO SELL REAL
 PROPERTY SECURING
 MORTGAGE TO SATISFY CLAIM
 IN PROBATE PROCEEDING
 ABSENT A FORECLOSURE
 ACTION; AND/OR IN THE
 ALTERNATIVE, A WRIT
 AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF
 THE MORTGAGED PROPERTY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on February 02, 2018, at 10:30 a.m., a hearing will be held before Judge Joseph N. Camacho on the Petition by Claimant Marianas Public Land Trust to Sell Real Property Securing Mortgage to Satisfy Claim in Probate Proceeding Absent a Foreclosure Action; and/or in the Alternative, A Writ Authorizing the Sale of the Mortgaged Property in the above-captioned matter, at the Superior Court for the CNMI, Guma Hustisia, Civic Center, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Respectfully submitted on this 20th day of December, 2017.

/s/ Clerk of Court

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(AMENDED)

Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting Agenda**Thursday, January 18, 2018****5:00 PM, Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center, Susupe**
Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • www.zoning.gov.mp**A. Preliminary Matters**

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of 11/09/2017 meeting minutes
5. Public Comments (not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)

B. Public Hearings:

1. **Conditional Use Application #2017-4537:** YES Corporation dba YES Bed & Breakfast is proposing to occupy an existing 7-bedroom residential home and rent out 5 units for its Bed & Breakfast establishment. This use is classified as "Bed & Breakfast" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 003 I 30 along Tarakitu Street in San Antonio. This area is zoned as Village Residential.
2. **File #2017-5210:** Jin Ho Corp. dba MGM Poker is requesting to extend its poker establishment's relocation to the permitted zoning districts beyond the deadline of October 25, 2017. It is currently located in a Village Commercial zone on Lot#225-3-7/8, Chalan Msgr. Martinez in As Lito, north of Guangdong.
3. **File #2017-5275:** DKK Inc. dba Dollars Poker & Winners Poker is requesting to extend its poker establishments' relocation to the permitted zoning districts beyond the deadline of October 25, 2017. Dollars Poker is currently located in a Tourist Resort zone on Lot#004 D 41, Beach Road in Garapan, south of Saipan Ocean View Hotel. Winners Poker is currently located in a Mixed Commercial zone on Lot#004 D 69, Orchid Street in Garapan, south of Garapan Elementary School.
4. **File #2017-5299:** Sky Corporation dba Dandan Poker is requesting to extend its poker establishment's relocation to the permitted zoning districts beyond the deadline of October 25, 2017. It is currently located in a Village Commercial zone on Lot#H221-2-11, Dandan Road in Dandan, south of Lucky De Market.
5. **File #2017-5300:** Sky Corporation dba JL Poker is requesting to extend its poker establishments' relocation to the permitted zoning districts beyond the deadline of October 25, 2017. It is currently located in a Village Commercial zone on Lot#010 K 183, Dandan Road in Dandan, south of Dandan Middle School.
6. **File #2017-5301:** JSJ Company Ltd., dba KM Poker is requesting to extend its poker establishment's relocation to the permitted zoning districts beyond the deadline of October 25, 2017. It is currently located in a Village Commercial zone on Lot#012 G 66, Kagman Road in Kagman, east of Kagman Market.
7. **File #2017-5303:** 3 Js Corporation dba Joy Poker is requesting to extend its poker establishment's relocation to the permitted zoning districts beyond the deadline of October 25, 2017. It is currently located in a Village Commercial zone on TR 21818-3, Texas Road in Susupe, south of Susupe Lake Apartments.
8. **File #2017-5322:** Pacific Amusement Inc. dba High Roller 3 is requesting to extend its poker establishment's relocation to the permitted zoning districts beyond the deadline of October 25, 2017. It is currently located in a Village Commercial zone on Lot#005 I 420, Koblerville Road in Koblerville, across from Han Nam Supermarket.
9. **File #2017-5323:** Pacific Amusement Inc. dba High Roller 1 is requesting to extend its poker establishment's relocation to the permitted zoning districts beyond the deadline of October 25, 2017. It is currently located in a Mixed Commercial zone on Lot#004 D 401, Chalan Pale Arnold in Garapan, south of Century Hotel.
10. **File #2017-5326:** KSK Corporation dba Shany II poker is requesting to extend its poker establishment's relocation to the permitted zoning districts beyond the deadline of October 25, 2017. It is currently located in a Village Commercial zone on Lot#015 H 27/28, Chalan Kanoa Drive in Chalan Kanoa.
11. **File #2017-5364:** LDK, Inc. dba Yuta Poker is requesting to extend its poker establishment's relocation to the permitted zoning districts beyond the deadline of October 25, 2017. It is currently located in a Village Commercial zone on Chalan Pale Arnold in San Roque, north of San Roque Market.
12. **Files #2017-5399:** P&S Inc., dba 888 Poker is requesting to extend its poker establishment's relocation to the permitted zoning districts beyond the deadline of October 25, 2017. It is currently located in a Mixed Commercial zone on Lot#005 D 38, Kadena Di Amor Street in Garapan, southwest of Mobil Gas Station.
13. **Files #2017-5400:** P&S Inc., dba Orchid Poker is requesting to extend its poker establishment's relocation to the permitted zoning districts beyond the deadline of October 25, 2017. It is currently located in a Mixed Commercial zone on Lot#004 D 37, Garapan Street in Garapan.
14. **Winnerslife Inc. & Dan B. Choi dba SH II Poker** is requesting to extend its poker establishment's relocation to the permitted zoning districts beyond the deadline of October 25, 2017. It is currently located in a Village Commercial zone on Lot#12 G 13, Kagman Road in Kagman.
15. **Winnerslife Inc. dba SH I Poker** is requesting to extend its poker establishment's relocation to the permitted zoning districts beyond the deadline of October 25, 2017. It is currently located in a Village Commercial zone on TR22746, Chalan Tun Joaquin Doi in Fina Sisu.

C. Communication**D. Old Business****E. New Business**

1. Operations Reports (Permitting & Enforcement/Public Hearing Procedures)

F. Executive (Closed) Session**G. Miscellaneous****a. Other Matters****b. Announcements****c. Next Meeting****H. Adjourn**

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Administrator, Therese T. Ogomoro, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

Torres signs bill earmarking over \$6.2M to Saipan



Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signs House Local Bill 20-49 with SNILD chair Rep. John Paul Sablan, and House Ways and Means chair Rep. Angel A. Demapan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres yesterday signed into law a bill that appropriates \$6,286,000 from the Exclusive Gaming Annual License Fees allotted to the Third Senatorial District under 4 CMC §2307(c)(2).

House Local Bill 20-49, S1, D1, was offered by Reps. Angel A. Demapan, Francisco C. Aguon, BJ T. Attao, Donald C. Barcinas, Ivan A. Blanco, Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero,

Alice S. Igitol, Jose I. Itibus, Janet U. Maratita, Gregorio M. Sablan, Jr., Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation chair John Paul P. Sablan, and Edmund S. Villagomez and was passed by the SNILD of the 20th Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. The bill becomes Saipan Local Law No. 20-19.

"While I have signed this into law in the best interest of our patients and the staff at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation, I am disappointed in the CEO's decision to prioritize \$200,000 for the renovation of the hospital's new outpatient pharmacy, instead of purchasing new pharmacy hoods for its existing inpatient pharmacy," Torres said in his transmittal message to the SNILD:

Torres added that the \$200,000 appropriation outlined in this bill for pharmacy hoods and the renovation of the clean room provide for the preparation of personalized medication through compounded drugs, chemotherapy drugs, and IV solutions, which are critically important to the treatment of our patients and are needed to comply with standards set forth by the U.S. Pharmacopeia Convention and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS). With this being

said, I question why \$200,000 was not used to address this critical priority first, but was used to fund the renovation of the new outpatient pharmacy when an existing pharmacy already exists and is in need of additional equipment to meet the expectations and requirements of our patients.

"I advise CHCC to prudently determine and manage its financial priorities for the benefit of our patients and the vitality of our island's only hospital. I remain open as always to discuss ways to achieve this purpose in coordination with the Legislature," he said.

In a separate statement, the governor added.

"I am disappointed in the CEO's decision because there is confusion about what the financial priorities of CHCC are. If CHCC is in need of vital equipment to better serve our patients and community, then that should have been taken care of first, rather than to prioritize the renovation of an outpatient pharmacy when an existing pharmacy is still there within the hospital to provide outpatient services. I will continue to ensure that essential health-care services will be adequately funded for the hospital this year, but I will not tolerate the current management's lack of financial priorities," he said. (PR)

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP18-OGM-043**

SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 05, 2018 TIME: 10:00 A.M.
**"ROTA SLAUGHTERHOUSE FEASIBILITY STUDY
FOR THE OFFICE OF GRANTS MANAGEMENT"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR.
ADMINISTRATOR, OFFICE OF GRANTS

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING for Yes Corporation

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. YES Corporation dba YES Bed & Breakfast is proposing to occupy an existing 7-bedroom residential home and rent out 5 units for its Bed & Breakfast establishment. This use is classified as "Bed & Breakfast" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 003 I 30 along Tarakitu Street in San Antonio. This area is zoned as Village Residential.

Date: Thursday, January 18, 2018**Time: 5:00 pm****Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center,
Susupe**

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, January 17, 2018. Please send written comments via e-mail to Therese.Ogomoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP18-OMB-042**

SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 24, 2018 TIME: 10:00 A.M.
**"PURCHASE OF A SOFTWARE-AS-A-SERVICES BUDGETING SOFTWARE
(SaaS) FOR THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET"**

THE PROJECT RFP PACKAGE WILL BE AVAILABLE **JANUARY 05, 2018** AT THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT & BUDGET, JUAN A. SABLAN ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, CAPITOL HILL.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ VIRGINIA C. VILLAGOMEZ
SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

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Island Fresh pledges support for a healthier Guam



SNAP-Ed leaders and Island Fresh employees display the 5-2-1-Almost None campaign messages inside the Ordot-Chalan Pago grocery store. Back row, left to right, Victor Jones and Island Fresh store manager Ricardo Dueñas. Front row, left to right, DPHSS SNAP program administrator Annie Gozum-Soto, DPHSS chief human services administrator Ma. Theresa Arcangel, SNAP-Ed assistant coordinator Rynette Perez, SNAP-Ed coordinator Dr. Tanisha Aflague, Aja Guevara, and Brandon Leon Guerrero.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Local Ordot-Chalan Pago supermarket, Island Fresh, has recently signed a Community Pledge certificate to assist in spreading the word about healthy eating and active living with the 5-2-1 Almost None campaign.

This campaign recommends eating five servings of fruits and vegetables, spending two hours or less of screen time, getting one hour of physical activity, and drinking almost no sugar-sweetened beverages, per day.

Island Fresh is the first store in Ordot-Chalan Pago to participate with 5-2-1 Almost None, under the University of Guam Extension & Outreach Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – Education, or SNAP-Ed, in collaboration with the Department of Public Health and Social Services.

Over the next 12 months, Island Fresh will be displaying 5-2-1 Almost None posters and banners, offering tastings of dishes made with healthy food choices, and promoting and identifying “Smart Snacks” with signage and displays. These activities are geared to help parents and students choose healthier options that meet U.S. Department of Agriculture nutritional stan-

dards for school-aged children. This community partnership also entails regular cooking demonstrations and nutrition education sessions at the store, focusing on healthier versions of local recipes, as well as promoting locally grown, seasonal produce.

“SNAP-Ed is already in its second year partnering with Ordot-Chalan Pago Elementary School to promote the 5-2-1-Almost None campaign. Having Island Fresh as a partner in the same community helps to bring our cam-

paign full circle so that the messages we are promoting at school and sending home will also be visible in other places in the community,” said UOG SNAP-Ed assistant coordinator Rynette D. Perez.

5-2-1 Almost None has a champion in the community with the support of Island Fresh. Ordot-Chalan Pago’s children and families will reap the benefits of healthy eating and active living.

For more information about SNAP-Ed, visit, <http://cnas-re.uog.edu/cnep/>. **(PR)**

Kayak operator rescues adrift swimmer

On Tuesday, Jan. 9, 2018, at approximately 5:43pm, the Department of Public Safety’s dispatch received a call about a swimmer drifting toward the preposition ships on the Saipan lagoon.


DPS officers responded to the scene and found the stranded swimmer safe on the beach of Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Police officers from Boating Safety Unit interviewed a Chinese female, who said she went swimming around 5pm and was alone on a white floating tube, taking pictures of herself. Once


she noticed she was drifting toward open water, she began shouting for help. Her friend then ran to the water-sports company, Ichiban, to call 911.

Patrons of Ichiban began to form a crowd that caught the attention of a kayak operator. He boarded his kayak and headed out to the victim. He was able to bring her safely to shore, but not before she flipped the kayak over twice in panic.

Both the kayak operator and victim refused medical assistance once they made it to shore. **(PR)**



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BIDS

DPW-18-IFB-006

TOPOGRAPHIC AND AS-BUILT SURVEY OF AS FALIFE ROAD, PRECINCT III, FOR ROADS AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT, SAIPAN

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for **Topographic and As-Built Survey of As Falife Road, Precinct III for Roads and Drainage Improvement**, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **January 11, 2018** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect."

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **January 30, 2018, 9:00 a.m. local time** at Project Site, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **February 6, 2018 to Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) Calendar days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW-18-IFB-006"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascension Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time February 9, 2018**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, February 9, 2018**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@opticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **February 9, 2018** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **February 20, 2018**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascension Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. local time, February 23, 2018**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:00 a.m. local time, on February 9, 2018**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (**\$25,000.00**) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **\$70-30.3-245**. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

- A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
- A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

- Cash
- US Gov't Securities
- Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
- Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
- Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **Ninety (90) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **Three Hundred (US\$300.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

JAMES A. ADA
Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

HEALTH PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Registered Nurse: (04)

- Must pass NCLEX with current CNMI RN License
- Must hold a degree of Bachelor of Science in nursing
- At least three to six years' experience
- English language skills-proficient in spoken, written and comprehension
- Certification in Basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation

Front Office Manager: (01)

- At least over six years experience in medical billing, electronic health records and practice partner record
- Must be familiar with medical terminology, ICD 9, coding of medical procedures and diagnosis
- College graduate
- English language skills-proficient in spoken, written and comprehension
- Must be certified pharmacy technician
- Must be proficient in computer skills, spreadsheet and general accounting skills.

Ultrasound/X-Ray Technician: (02)

- At least six years experience or related field
- Must hold a Bachelor of Science in Radiology Technology
- Must be over six years experience in electronic health and practice partner records
- Experience/knowledge with practice partner software in electronic health records usage
- Licensed by Medical Professional Licensing Board, CNMI

General Yard Maintenance: (01)

- At least two years preferred skills and experience
- Experience in assisting in building construction/renovation
- Maintaining the interior and exterior of the clinic in a neat and orderly condition
- Maintaining of plants in transplanting and fertilizing
- Assist in cleaning of clinic air conditionings
- Be flexible in assisting in other related maintenance duties
- Be flexible with time schedule

Healthcare Clinic System Manager: (01)

- Minimum of three to five years of work related skills, knowledge or experience
- Bachelor's degree or equivalent
- Maintains specialized computer programs relating to health care operations (medical billing, patient records, scheduler)
- Maintain all of company computer systems to include computer hardware, software, computer network and advance server skills
- Oversees medical billing department utilizing specialized computer software
- Oversees administrative areas and designs, develops and maintains a paperless computer system
- Building maintenance repair, electronic records and prescription with meaningful use in compliance with Medicare and Medicaid standards
- Performs such other duties as may be assigned

Interested applicants must submit resume or pick up application at Saipan Health Clinic in Chalan Kiya, Saipan. Deadline to submit application or resume will be on Friday, January 19, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. For more information, please call 234-2901 ext. 128.



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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Trump targets Salvadoran immigrants. Here's what Congress must do

With the Trump administration announcing Monday it wants to deport even more immigrants, Congress must come to the rescue.

This time, President Donald Trump and his Department of Homeland Security are targeting about 200,000 Salvadorans and their children, including an estimated 49,000 who call California home. They fled natural disaster in El Salvador and have been given shelter here under temporary protected status.

This move is counterproductive, it violates our values and it's plain cruel.

Many in the program have been living and working in the U.S. for nearly 20 years. They have established deep roots in communities. Some arrived as children and grew up in America. Some are married to U.S. residents and some have children of their own, who are U.S. citizens. If they are sent back to El Salvador, families would be torn apart.

Trump is giving lawmakers until September 2019 if they want to protect the Salvadorans.

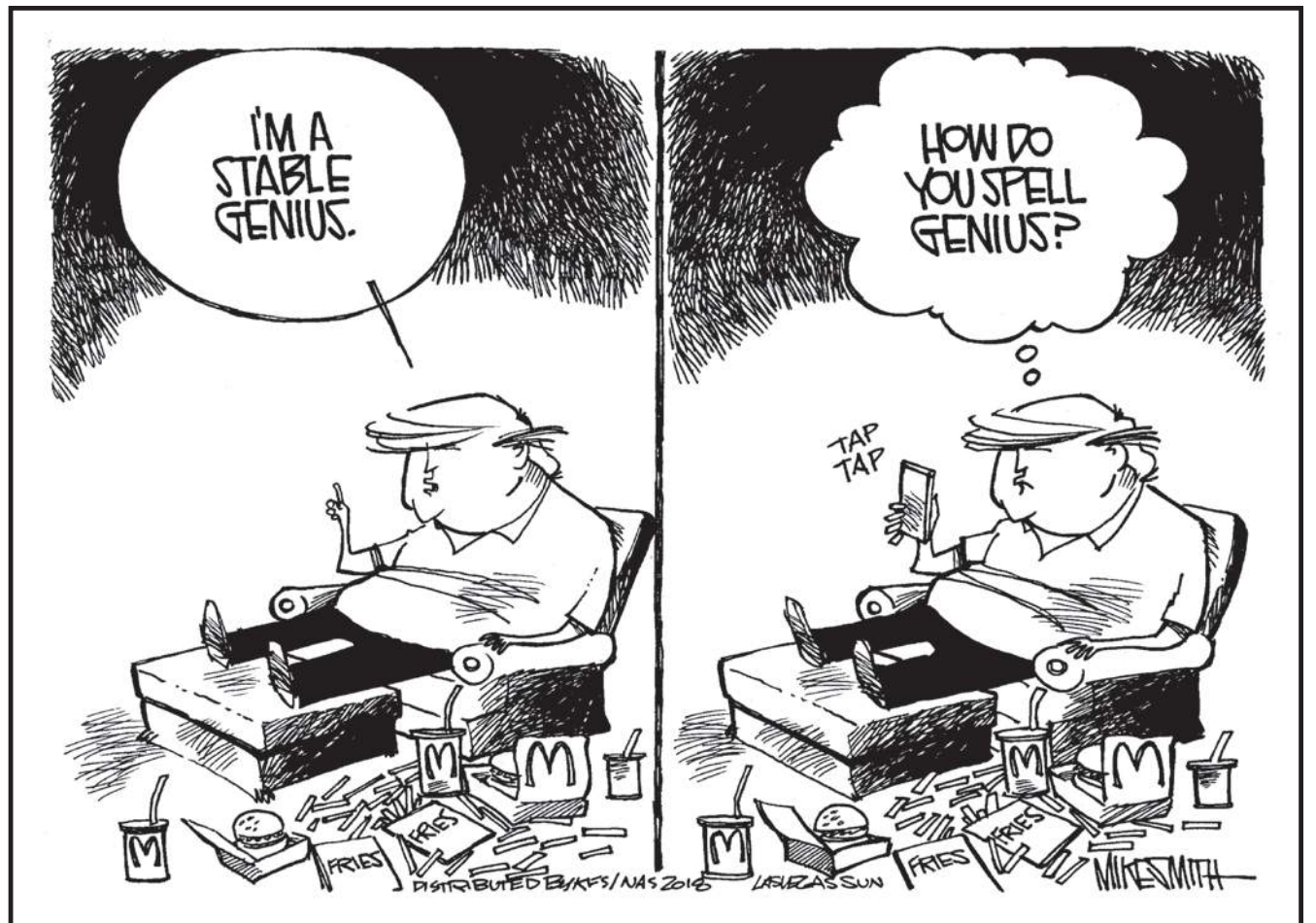
Several bills have been introduced to provide a path to legal residency for Salvadorans. Now, there's an urgent deadline to act.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, who is co-sponsoring one bill, complained Monday that Trump did not consult with her or fellow California Sen. Kamala Harris. "This is yet another example of the Trump administration taking an action with significant consequences for California without making any attempt to understand the harm it would cause," Feinstein's statement says.

Salvadorans are the largest group of foreigners benefiting from temporary protected status, and their protection had been extended several times since 2001 under Republican George W. Bush and Democrat Barack Obama. The last extension, in 2016, cited drought, poverty and gang violence in their home country.

While Homeland Security said Monday that Salvadorans no longer belong in the TPS program because damage has been repaired from two 2001 earthquakes that killed more than 1,000, their supporters point out that El Salvador is still full of violence, gangs and human trafficking.

Already, the Trump administration has ended TPS for 5,300 Nicaraguans, effective in January 2019, and nearly 60,000 Haitians, effective in July 2019. It is considering doing so for 86,000 Hondurans.

See **TRUMP** on Next Page

Trump is handling Iran just right

If you've got a minute to pause from our collective obsession with a gossipy book of dubious veracity, here's an issue of compelling importance that reveals another side of this president and his administration: Iran and how Donald Trump addresses the deadly anti-regime demonstrations now convulsing that historic land that clearly is the linchpin of any future regional stability, or the opposite.

The last time such nationwide protests erupted there—the Green Revolution of 2009—Barack Obama was painfully reluctant to involve the U.S., even rhetorically. His tardy and limp comments about peaceful demonstrations came only after congressional resolutions and John McCain's Senate tongue-lashing for their absence.

Hillary Clinton later admitted, "We were too restrained in our support of the protests in June 2009, and in our condemnation of the government crackdown that followed."

Though there's little media attention these days, there's no confusion this time. "Oppressive regimes cannot endure forever," Trump has said. "The people of Iran are finally acting against the brutal and corrupt Iranian regime."

Vice President Mike Pence gave a lengthy interview to Greta Van Susteren for Voice of America to broadcast in Farsi: "We're going to continue to send, from the very outset of this effort on the streets of Iran, an unambiguous message that the American people stand with freedom-loving people in Iran and around the world."

In a Washington Post op-ed Pence wrote, "We stand with the proud people of Iran because it is right. And because the regime in Tehran threatens the peace and security of the world."

Obama's abiding reluctance to confront Iran on anything was tied to his consuming desire for the coveted nuclear pact he sought with Tehran, a leaky pact Trump has now declined to certify Iran is obeying.

Any president, especially one like Trump not known for nuance, walks a tightrope in these situations. He must make clear America's support for a people's democratic strivings without creating false hopes of direct U.S. intervention, as arose during the Hungarian Revolution of 1956, ultimately squashed by Soviet tanks.

Iran's second national uprising against the mullahs in nine years is fueled this time by rural Iranians, once the regime's strongest pillar. Demonstrators now chant for regime change because the anticipated gains from more than \$100 billion in unfrozen funds were squandered on weapons, foreign forays, terror funding and, likely, corruption.

Reporters seeking news offered Trump's spokeswoman an opportunity to reveal that her boss supports regime change in Tehran. Instead of taking the bait, she said carefully, "I think the ultimate endgame would be that the citizens and the people of

By **ANDREW MALCOLM**

Special to McClatchy

Andrew Malcolm is an author and veteran national and foreign correspondent covering politics since the 1960s. Follow him @AHMalcolm.



Iran are actually given basic human rights, and he'd certainly like to see them stop being a state sponsor of terror."

Trump's tweets at North Korea's "little Rocket Man" draw instant media attention, even igniting speculations on the president's mental health. They reinforce a popular perception that this president is a loose cannon, a perception he sometimes seeks and feeds with unorthodox presidential behavior and statements.

What doesn't get reported so eagerly nor attributed to Trump's presidency are puzzling positive developments: Economic growth exceeding three percent by Trump's seventh month, unemployment falling to longtime lows, 1.84 million new jobs since Trump's inauguration, confident stock markets soaring to all-time highs, new homebuilding up, dozens of large companies granting bonuses and wage hikes. Even Trump's job approval was climbing at year's end.

How can so many things be going so well with an unbalanced usurper in the Oval Office?

Trump's firm stance on Iran's global export of terrorism and his sober conduct toward Iran's mullahs with the unnoticed absence, for instance, of offensive name-calling tweets go willfully unnoticed because such respect does not fit the favored anti-Trump narrative.

So, too does his mutual decision with South Korea's president to suspend possibly provocative joint military exercises ahead of next month's Winter Olympics there. Or Trump's instantly-implemented vow to crush ISIS quickly, no longer an organized fighting force.

Or his carefully-targeted response to Syrian use of chemical weapons on its own people. His imposition of new sanctions on Russia, sale of badly-needed defensive weapons to Ukraine, U.S. troop deployments to Eastern Europe as a NATO commitment.

And now the suspension of \$2 billion in aid to Pakistan for harboring terrorists, a firm consequence dodged by all recent administrations.

These and other actions demonstrating freshened resolve abroad suggest when it comes to foreign policy, friends and foes alike would do well to note that Trump follows words with action.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

A poverty tour of the United States

I want to tell you a story about a nation that has done an above-average job of eliminating extreme poverty. It's a nation you would presume had accomplished those goals, judging by its behavior.

The nation just passed a huge tax break for its most wealthy citizens. Big corporations and millionaires will receive the most relief. The ruling political party plans to pay for these tax breaks, which will add trillions of dollars to the national deficit, by cutting services utilized by its poorest citizens.

I have another story. It's about a nation that was recently subjected to a poverty investigation by the United Nations. An investigator toured the nation's troubled areas, engaging in fact-finding and poverty analysis. The U.N. report found:

g The nation suffers from a huge wealth gap between the rich and the poor, while the poor lived shorter and sicker lives than the citizens of any other major Western democracy.

g A shockingly high number of its 40 million poor citizens were children and youth. The country suffered the highest child poverty and infant mortality rates in the developed world.

g It scored lower than any comparable nation in income mobility. People who are born poor are more likely to live and die poor than in "any of the rich countries."

Both of these nations are the United States of America.

The service cuts eyed by Congress will come to programs called "entitlements." They include Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. The poverty investigation was recently conducted by an official U.N. monitor, Philip Alston. He spent two weeks visiting several cities. He found that United States often provided less care for its most vulnerable residents than he has witnessed in the so-called Third World.

Alston visited homeless camps in Los Angeles, where authorities promised to help prevent new outbreaks of hepatitis C by providing toilets for the homeless. Alston observed that there are presently a mere nine toilets available for nearly 2,000 of the homeless.

That's a ratio well below what is mandated by the U.N. for its Syrian refugee camps.

In rural Alabama, where impoverished African Americans live, Alston observed sewage problems so great that some areas were experiencing outbreaks of hookworm disease. Hookworm — still found in Africa and Asia — was assumed to have been eradicated in the United States decades ago. He also saw "houses in rural areas that were surrounded by cesspools of sewage that flowed out of broken or non-existent septic systems." State health officials had no idea of the scope of the problem nor any plan to deal with it.

In stories and statistics, Alston's report presents a shocking

basket, which is a dangerous gamble—a lesson taught in social studies economics about "one-crop economies" because if that one crop fails, our economy will be in shambles, like it was when the Japanese economy took a big hit and we suffered. If something goes wrong between China and the U. S., the CNMI will be helpless and at the mercy of federal intervention again! So locals need to pray long and hard that nothing will ever go wrong!

It is clear to me that money talks much louder than I do in the CNMI but, like I keep telling the powers-that-be, time is on my side when I speak out on issues. I have a lot of compassion for the average local person, which is why I continue to speak out and I don't need a thousand words to explain what is happening in the CNMI. But just maybe one day, local leaders will get it that they should have listened a lot more to Ambrose M. Bennett, who continues to say, "I told you so!"

Ambrose M. Bennett

Kagman, Saipan

Again!? Really!?

I am so angry right now that I want to find the three thugs that beat up and burglarized the Rogue Tavern owner last night and murder them.

I know the police won't do anything about this because the three thugs are probably related to somebody on the force!

When I first arrived on the island in 2013, I thought that I had found paradise. What I realized after my first weekend here was that I had found the Island of Thieves!

I came here to be a dentist and my employer found me a home on the beach. It was idyllic. A fenced back yard leading to a wonderful beach. A sea captain friend of one of the owners was having to return to San Francisco to be with his mother who was dying of cancer. He asked me to watch over his dog. I made sure to lock the gate to make sure that the dog would not run away.

After a peaceful night, I went to bed.

I was awakened at 2am by a call from one of my employers. "Are you okay?" he asked.

I was groggy and not sure how to answer him. "Yes, I'm fine," I answered.

"Your car has been stolen," he replied.

"What! No!"

I got up at that point and moved from the bedroom to the kitchen where I had left the car keys. The keys were not there. Also, my wallet and phone were missing.

I moved outside and saw that the car was not there. And the dog I had been entrusted with was also gone.

Shortly after, the police arrived and the two owners of the dental clinic also came to the house. The police did their obligatory

By **DARRYL LORENZO WELLINGTON**

Tribune News Service



Darryl Lorenzo Wellington is an essayist and poet living in Santa Fe, New Mexico. His new poetry chapbook is Life's Prisoners.

portrait of mass unemployment, child poverty and homelessness in America — at this time when Republicans are determined to cut social services for those who need them most.

"The proposed tax reform," he writes, "stakes out America's bid to become the most unequal society in the world, and will greatly increase the already high levels of inequality between the richest 1 percent and the poorest 50 percent of America."

This conclusion will not surprise many struggling Americans, who continue to see their earnings shrink, their housing costs boom, and the number of the homeless people in their cities rise. The reality of pervasive economic anxiety in America seems to be a big secret only in Washington.

questioning, and then one of the owners announced, "Welcome to the Island of Thieves!"

My first thought was, "What? Why didn't you tell me before?" I wouldn't have been so trusting.

Then I was told by another owner, "The thieves are probably related to somebody in the police force, so do not expect any justice!"

I was crushed. I could not count on the police to do their job? They would protect the thieves over me? A rude awakening.

Welcome to Saipan.

Now, I chose to stay on the island and try to make things work. The issues lately are more civil (CW issues) than criminal, but I remain amazed that people are murdered, go missing and disappear with no resolution by the police.

Back to the current situation: a new restaurant in San Roque named Roque's Tavern was robbed last night. This restaurant has become my favorite restaurant on the island. A combination of Peruvian and Italian dishes and a menu that I just love!

Now I read that the owner and head chef was beaten and robbed?

This is so wrong on so many fronts.

This young man was just talking to me last time I was in the restaurant about his future plans for the menu. He wanted to add steak that he would age himself, and a Peruvian-infused rotisserie chicken. Wonderful plans for a growing restaurant!

What is he to do now?

Can he count on the police to do their job?

Can these thugs be apprehended and removed from the streets so we can all be safer?

I want to conduct my life without fear. I know that this is probably unrealistic, but it shouldn't be!

This is a tiny island. We do not even make it on most atlases as more than a dot. Let's clean up our act and protect our citizens from this scum that pervades our society.

Nelson Krum, DDS

via email

TRUMP

From Page 10

At the same time, Trump wants \$18 billion to build a wall at the U.S. border.

It is noteworthy that the vast majority of the people who are being kicked out, or kept out, of our nation are non-white.

The president's persistent assault on immigrants highlights the need for comprehensive reform. But it has to be fair and just and true to America's history. There is no indication that's what we'll get from Trump, so Republicans and Democrats in Congress must step up.

(c)2018 *The Sacramento Bee* (Sacramento, Calif.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A picture and a thousand words






I told people and MVA that locals were being uprooted and left out of the future picture for tourism in the CNMI and the picture of the newly certified tour guides is just the beginning and will continue to expand throughout the CNMI's tourism industry if nothing changes. From what I could tell, all of the tour guides in the picture were not locals, which sends the signal that tour companies are not hiring locals to be tour guides. Either locals are not included or they don't care about being tour guides. In either case, this phenomenon should be troubling for locals and tour guide companies, especially if these tour guides are CWs who will have to leave one day!

I also saw students on Rota being oriented about tourism and I can only pray these students are also encouraged to learn to speak another language as that requirement will be one of the biggest hurdles for them to fully participate in our tourism industry in key positions. I'm almost sure the new tour guides speak a foreign language, which is what propels them past locals in the hiring line for tour guides and even for the high-level jobs at hotels. I remember many tour guides in the CNMI actually knew Japanese but times and the conditions have changed from Japanese to Chinese. So I don't blame MVA or the tour companies because they have a business to run but I do blame our leaders on the hill and in education for setting the conditions and not preparing our local workforce for these jobs and it's almost too late now to change the practice of hiring non-locals for tour guides.

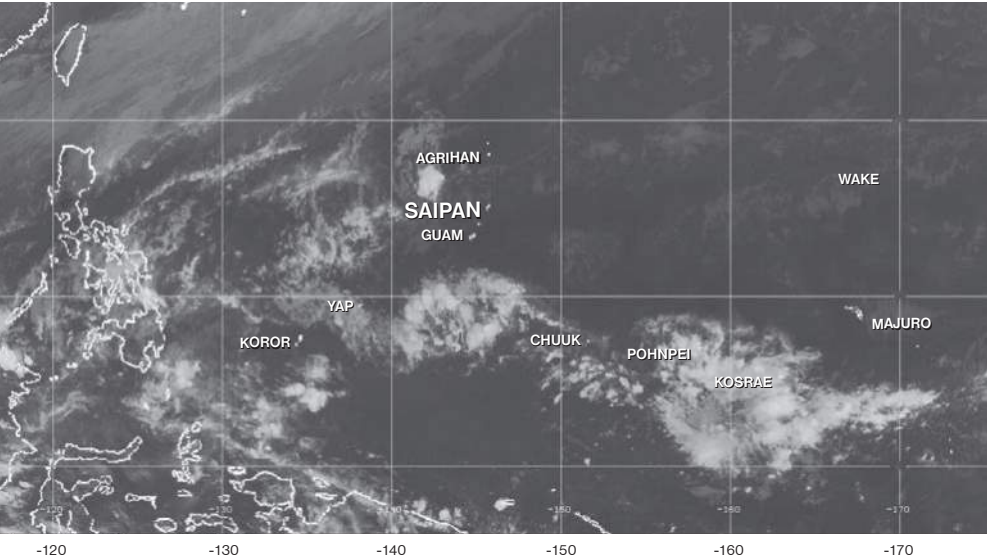
I am wondering where the NMDs and those locals who are always claiming "this is my island" when locals are constantly being left out of the key positions in our tourist industry. Do CWs really know more about the CNMI than locals is a question for the NMDs and all locals who wanted to be a tour guide to answer. From what I can tell it is not going to be your island much longer as the Chinese are buying it up one piece at a time, which is evident in how the leases of existing hotels are being gobbled up. We are doing more "renovation" of our tourist industry than expanding the base. In fact, the base is narrowing. Heck, the Legislature is even helping by planning to extend the leases so the Chinese can be in control even longer, almost doubling the length of time in the old lease requirements. Any economist will tell you that diversity is a key element to establishing a sound sustainable base for our economy and it seems our leaders have committed to putting all of our eggs in the one

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 20 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:48 AM, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2018
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Little change made to the forecast with an update of winds with new model data being the only change. The remnant of a shear line feature could be found just west of the local islands this morning. This feature was moving west, but lingering moisture in its wake will keep skies partly cloudy through at least the morning. Models show patchy clouds possible tonight, Thursday night, and Friday night. Deep-layer moisture will be lacking so showers will be isolated at best. Despite some periods of clouds, predominant sky coverage will probably be partly cloudy through the forecast. Winds of 10 to 20 mph today and tonight will briefly increase Thursday as high pressure passes by to the north of the local area.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA ▲ ▼ °F		
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 81°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE ▲ ▼ °F		
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	79° / 64°
Beijing	Sunny	37° / 12°
Hong Kong	Sunny	61° / 54°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	82° / 65°
London	Partly Cloudy	43° / 39°
Los Angeles	Sunny	74° / 54°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	81° / 73°
Melbourne	Thunderstorms	88° / 61°
Miami	Thunderstorms	76° / 71°
New York	Partly Cloudy	49° / 45°
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	41° / 30°
Paris	Cloudy	45° / 37°
Busan	Sunny	34° / 21°
Rome	Showers	57° / 39°
Salem	Showers	68° / 58°
San Francisco	Foggy	55° / 46°
Seoul	Sunny	21° / 12°
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	43° / 28°
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	54° / 49°



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET		
4:18 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.35
9:11 AM	LOW TIDE	0.95
3:17 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.85
10:46 PM	LOW TIDE	0.20

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:45 AM	6:03 PM
Friday	6:46 AM	6:04 PM
Saturday	6:46 AM	6:04 PM
Sunday	6:46 AM	6:05 PM
Monday	6:46 AM	6:05 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	1:45 am	1:42 pm	-
Friday	2:34 am	2:23 pm	-
Saturday	3:23 am	3:06 pm	-
Sunday	4:12 am	3:51 pm	-
Monday	5:01 am	4:38 pm	-

NEWS DESK

For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 19, 2017							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota	UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6	UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily	UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily	UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL297	4:20pm	7:15pm	Daily	DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7	7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5	7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	2:00am	6:05am	Daily	7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1	OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	Daily
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7	OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily	LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	5:40am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (GHG)				HANGZHOU (GHG)-SAIPAN			
JD396	7:30am	12:00pm	1	JD395	8:25am	3:30pm	4
JD396	4:50pm	10:00pm	4	JD395	9:55pm	5:00am+1	7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN	UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM	OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM	OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM	PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR				
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
U043	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7	U042	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM	U042	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
				UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.							
SAIPAN TO ROTA				1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily	1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily	1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily	1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily	1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily	1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily	TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
ROTA TO GUAM				FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily	2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA				2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily	2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily	2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily	2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
				2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
				2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Church: Guam archbishop faces new sexual assault allegation

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—Guam say they have notified abuse allegation against Arch-Catholic church officials in the Vatican of a new sexual bishop Anthony Apuron.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SSHS report cards out this Friday

Saipan Southern High School would be distributing the 2nd quarter report cards to the students during fourth period this Friday, Jan. 5. Parents and guardians who need to meet with a teacher or counselor can call the school at 664-4000 to make an appointment. **(PR)**

Water outage today

There will be a scheduled water service interruption starting from 8pm today, Jan. 11, to 8am on Friday, Jan. 12, in several areas on Saipan that that the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s contractor can install a new 18-inch gate valve. At the same time, CUC Water Division Operations personnel will be cutting and capping an old 6-inch ductile iron pipe at the Chalan Msgr. Martinez and As Perdido intersection near the Guandong Hardware.

The water outage will affect the As Lito, As Perdido, Fina Sisu, Koblerville, San Antonio, Afetnas, Chalan Piao, Chaim Kanoa, Susupe, and Oleai areas.

The scope of work is to abandon an old waterline that is prone to leaks to help reduce CUC's non-revenue water percentage.

There may be a possibility that some customers are still connected to the old line and may not receive water after water services are restored, so CUC is asking affected customers to contact the CUC Call Center immediately.

Due to the closure of the southbound lane and for the safety of the men and women working at the site, motorists are advised to proceed with caution and take alternative routes when traveling by the area.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates. **(PR)**

Scheduled power interruption on Jan. 13

There will be a scheduled power interruption on Saturday, Jan. 13, 2018, from 7:30am to 12pm, to de-energize the primary lines to allow the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. line crew to safely replace three wooden power poles with concrete poles along Chalan Tun Thomas P. Sablan in Chalan Piao.

This is part of an on-going hazard mitigation project that involves replacing 787 wood poles with concrete poles.

A total of 328 wood poles have already been replaced with their corresponding pole sizes. The remaining 459 wooden poles will be scheduled for replacement at a later time.

Areas to be affected include Kiya 2 (2" Partial): Chalan Tun Thomas P. Sablan in Chalan Piao (Sherwood, Hopwood Middle School, Subway, Mobil Chalan Piao, Gold Ribbon, and Da Bao), Atuhong Pl., Alupyang Pl., Juan Nong St., Hamalap Ln., and San Isidro Av.

No water well will be affected but the A-4 wastewater lift station will be affected. The Chalan Piao traffic light will also be affected.

Because of the scale of work that will be performed, CUC asks travelers to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the affected areas.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates. **(PR)**

Homeless count orientation on Jan. 19

The CNMI Homeless Coalition would like to give notice that it will be having its Point-In-Time Survey (Homeless Count) Orientation on January 19, 2018, from 1pm to 4:30pm at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. The coalition

would like to invite anyone who is interested in volunteering for the homeless count.

If you may have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact Mr. Jacob Muna at 234-7689, 483-9447, or email at jjmuna@nmhc.gov.mp. **(PR)**

Career and Technical Education Program open house this Saturday

The CNMI Public School System will have an open house for its Career and Technical Education Program this Saturday, Jan. 13.

The public is invited to view materials and provide feedback/comments for the Career and Technical Education Program instructional materials for review by PSS.

The open house will be held from 10am to 3pm on three locations Tanapag Middle School Room F-3 (Saipan), Dr. Rita H. Inos Junior Senior High School Library (Rota), and Tinian Junior Senior High School Library (Tinian).

Access to Feedback/Comments online form: <https://goo.gl/forms/8Z2ZHE2FycvhgJPG3>.

For more information, contact CNMI PSS CTE education specialist Jessica Taylor, Ed.D. at jessica.taylor@cnmipss.org or associate commissioner of Curriculum and Instruction, Jackie Quitugua at jackie.quitugua@cnmipss.org. **(PR)**

Military training at Warning Area 517, FDM

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training at Warning Area 517 during the following dates and times:

■ Jan. 11, from 10:30am to 3:30pm

The military will also conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following dates and times:

■ Jan. 11, from 10:30am to 3:30pm

■ Jan. 12, from 11am to 3pm

It is recommended that the public, especially fishermen and marine tour operators, to monitor the U.S. Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories.

W-517 is activated south of latitude 12° 40' 00"N. Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Banks are open for public use.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be in a 12-nautical mile radius of the island. **(PR)**

CNMI/Japanese Descent Association reaches out

For almost a hundred years, Japanese cultural influence has permeated throughout the Northern Mariana Islands. That influence flourished in the islands' foods, language, architecture, and everyday common practices. However, over the past several decades, as a result of the decline in the Japanese economy and the continuous dwindling of the Japanese tourist market, the cultural significance of Japan has also declined.

To reverse this trend, the CNMI/Japanese Descent Association is trying to reach out to all local families who are lineal descendants of Japan. The mission of the association is to organize and reinvigorate Japanese cultural heritage in the Northern Mariana Islands especially as it involves the local population.

The association believes that there are dozens of families who would be able to trace their ancestry to Japan.

For all members who are interested in joining the CNMI/Japan Descent Association, contact Dave Sablan Sr. at dmsab@aol.com or Norman Tenorio at norten@pacificains.com / cell: 287-0751. **(PR)**

According to the Archdiocese of Agana, a relative of Apuron claimed to local media he was abused by the archbishop in 1990.

Apuron already faces multiple allegations of sexual abuse of altar boys in the 1970s.

He has denied those claims and has not been criminally charged. His lawyer Jacqueline Terlaje didn't immediately respond to a request for comment Wednesday.

The allegations against Apuron prompted a Vatican tribunal.

Archbishop Michael Byrnes says he was informed by Vatican officials late last year that a verdict has been reached, but it has not yet been released.

The Vatican sent Byrnes to Guam to replace Apuron on an administrative basis.



In this November 2014 file photo, Archbishop Anthony Apuron stands in front of the Dulce Nombre de Maria Cathedral Basilica in Hagatna, Guam. **AP**

PCC board of trustees holds organizational meeting



Emesiochl



Kuartei



Ngirudelsang



Roberts

Palau Community College Board of Trustees held its annual organizational meeting last Monday, Jan. 8.

The Republic of Palau Public Law 4-2, cited as the Higher Education Act of 1992, mandates that members of the PCC Board of Trustees meet each year in order to elect its officers and establish its calendar of regular meetings.

During their annual meeting on Monday, the trust-

ees voted the same officers for the 2018 calendar year. Thus, the current officers of the PCC Board of Trustees are as follows: Masa-Aki N. Emesiochl, chairman; Reverend Billy G. Kuartei, vice chairman; Dr. Emais Roberts, secretary/treasurer, and student trustee Eoghan O. Ngirudelsang.

Chairman Emesiochl will continue to represent the board on the three-member College of Micronesia Board

of Regents. In addition, the PCC Board of Trustees organized its standing committee.

Academic Program Committee-Emesiochl, Personnel/Finance Committee-Roberts, Facilities-Kuartei, and Student Affairs Committee-Ngirudelsang. All committee include key college officials as ex-hoc members. The annual organizational meeting of the PCC Board of Trustees is held on the second Monday of January of each year. **(PR)**



'LET'S SHAKE ON IT'

Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation chair Sen. Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) and Tinian Municipal Council chair Philip Mendiola-Long shake hands after the delegation session yesterday. **ERWIN ENCINARES**



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Business

World Bank predicts 3.1 pct. global growth

WASHINGTON (AP)—The World Bank predicts that the global economy will grow 3.1 percent this year, which would be its best showing in seven years. The United States, the world's largest economy, is expected to receive a boost from the \$1.5 trillion tax cut package Congress approved last month.

The World Bank on Tuesday upgraded its global growth forecast for 2018 by 0.3 percentage point from the projection it made in June. It is also forecasting solid growth of 3 percent in 2019 and 2.9 percent in 2020, after similar 3 percent expansion in 2017.

The U.S. economy will grow 2.5 percent this year, the World Bank now predicts, up 0.3 percentage point from its June estimate. Its forecast shows U.S. growth slowing to 2.2 percent in 2019 and 2 percent in 2020.

In its report released Tuesday, the World Bank credited the widespread global rebound, after years of tepid growth, to stronger investment, rising manufacturing activity and increased trade flows.

"The upturn is broad-based, with growth increasing in more than half of the world's economies," the report said.

The 189-nation lending organization cautioned about some risks it sees to the international economy. It noted, in particular, a shift by the Federal Reserve and some other central banks toward raising interest rates after having kept them near record lows for years. Higher borrowing rates, if they go too far, could depress economic activity. The bank also warned of threats posed by rising trade protectionism and geopolitical pressures.

World Bank economists said their latest forecast reflects an expectation of some benefit from the tax-cut plan President Donald Trump signed into law last month. But the boost it foresees falls short of the expectations of the Trump administration, which is projecting that U.S. growth will reach a sustained annual pace of at least 3 percent, propelled by tax cuts, deregulation and tougher enforcement of trade laws.

The report also upgraded the World Bank's forecast for other economies on the belief

that a broad-based pickup in global growth that began last year will endure. The international economy as a whole grew last year at a stronger-than-expected 3 percent. That was a sharp pickup from the lackluster 2.4 percent pace of 2016—the weakest showing since the recession year of 2009, when the global economy shrank 1.8 percent.

The World Bank forecast that China, the world's second-largest economy, will grow 6.4 percent this year. And it foresees growth of 2.1 percent in the Eurozone and 1.3 percent in Japan.

World Bank President Jim Yong Kim cautioned against complacency. He urged policymakers to make needed investments in such areas as education and infrastructure as a way to lift lagging worker productivity and increase future growth.

"If policymakers around the world focus on these key investments, they can increase their countries' productivity, boost workforce participation and move closer to the goals of ending extreme poverty and boosting shared productivity," Kim said.

France investigating Apple's secret slowdown of old iPhones

PARIS (AP)—French authorities have opened an investigation into Apple over revelations it secretly slowed down older versions of its iPhones, the Paris prosecutor's office said Tuesday.

The preliminary probe was opened last week over alleged "deception and planned obsolescence" of some Apple products, the office said. It is led by the French body in charge of fraud control, which is part of the finance ministry.

It follows a legal complaint filed in December by a French consumer rights group whose aim is to stop the intentional obsolescence of goods by companies.

In France it is illegal to intentionally shorten the lifespan of a product in order to encourage customers replace it. A 2015 law makes that a crime, with penalties of up to two years in prison and fines of up to 5 percent of the company's annual turnover.

Apple apologized in December for secretly slowing down older iPhones, a move it said was necessary to avoid unexpected shutdowns related to battery fatigue. As part of its contrition, Apple is now offering to replace the batteries on older iPhones for \$29, a \$50 discount from the

usual price.

But Apple also has denied the slowdown of the older phones is a ploy designed to spur sales of newer models. "We have never—and would never—do anything to intentionally shorten the life of any Apple product, or degrade the user experience to drive customer upgrades," the company said on its website.

Apple France didn't respond to email and phone requests for comment on the latest legal developments in France from The Associated Press.

Lawsuits against the company have also been filed in the U.S. and Israel.

Creative Strategies analyst Carolina Milanesi believes Apple's throttling of older iPhones is helping to extend the devices' lives by enabling to take advantage of the new features in the company's free software updates each year.

The company's choice boiled down to "let the phone just run at full speed and kill the prematurely aged batteries or slow down the phone so the battery would last longer," Milanesi wrote in a recent analysis.

The French consumer rights group, called HOP, filed a lawsuit on Dec. 27. Its statement claims Apple slowed

down older smartphones in order to make clients buy the new iPhone 8, which was launched on the market around the same time.

Benchmark tests have suggested the slowdown isn't huge, but noticeable. Although Apple has said that's done to prevent iPhones from unexpectedly shutting down because of weak batteries, lawsuits filed against Apple say that its failure to disclose that right away could have led some people to wrongly conclude they needed a newer, faster phone rather than just a new battery.

Laetitia Vasseur, the director of HOP, said studies have showed that peaks in speed reductions match the releases of new phones on the market.

"We can see that there is an intention to have people buy new phones because of the speed reduction," she told the AP.

Vasseur said her group launched a survey following its complaint so that users can report problems they have faced. In 10 days, HOP has received more than 3,000 reports that will be handed over to the DGCCRF, the government fraud watchdog in charge of the investigation, she said.

Nation

Trump bid to end DACA blocked

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A federal judge on Tuesday night temporarily blocked the Trump administration's decision to end a program protecting young immigrants from deportation.

U.S. District Judge William Alsup granted a request by California and other plaintiffs to prevent President Donald Trump from ending the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program while their lawsuits play out in court.

Alsup said lawyers in favor of DACA clearly demonstrated that the young immigrants "were likely to suffer serious, irreparable harm" without court action. The judge also said the lawyers have a strong chance of succeeding at trial.

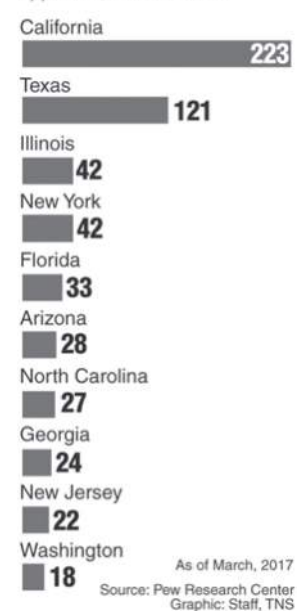
DACA has protected about 800,000 people who were brought to the U.S. illegally as children or came with families who overstayed visas. The program includes hundreds of thousands of college-age students.

Earlier Tuesday, President Donald Trump and congressional leaders from both parties met at the White House to discuss the DACA program and other immigration issues as they sought a bipartisan deal to avoid a government shutdown, which could occur in 10 days.

Trump suggested that

California leads in DACA recipients

Number of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program (DACA) initial applications approved, in thousands:



an immigration agreement could be reached by addressing young immigrants and border security with what he called a "bill of love," then by making comprehensive changes that have long eluded Congress.

U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced in September that the program would be phased out, saying former President Barack Obama had exceeded his authority when he implemented it in 2012.

13 dead in Southern California as rain triggers mudslides

MONTECITO, Calif. (AP)—At least 13 people were killed and dozens of homes were swept away or heavily damaged Tuesday as downpours sent mud and boulders roaring down hills stripped of vegetation by a gigantic wildfire that raged in Southern California last month.

Helicopters were used to pluck more than 50 people from rooftops because downed trees and power lines blocked roads, and dozens more were rescued on the ground, including a mud-caked 14-year-old girl pulled from a collapsed Montecito home where she had been trapped for hours.

"I thought I was dead for a minute there," the dazed girl could be heard saying on video posted by KNBC-TV before she was taken away on a stretcher.

Most deaths were believed to have occurred in Montecito, a wealthy enclave of about 9,000 people

northwest of Los Angeles that is home to such celebrities as Oprah Winfrey, Rob Lowe and Ellen DeGeneres, said Santa Barbara County spokesman David Villalobos.

Twenty people were hospitalized and four were described as "severely critical" by Dr. Brett Wilson of Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital.

An unknown number were unaccounted for and authorities were trying to determine if they were missing or just hadn't contacted family members.

The search for survivors continued into the evening, though Wilson noted that their conditions would deteriorate if they got wet.

The mud was unleashed in the dead of night by flash flooding in the steep, fire-scarred Santa Ynez Mountains. Burned-over zones are especially susceptible to destructive mudslides because scorched earth doesn't absorb water well and the land

The move sparked a flurry of lawsuits nationwide.

Alsup considered five separate lawsuits filed in Northern California, including one by the California and three other states, and another by the governing board of the University of California school system.

"DACA covers a class of immigrants whose presence, seemingly all agree, pose the least, if any, threat and allows them to sign up for honest labor on the condition of continued good behavior," Alsup wrote in his decision. "This has become an important program for DACA recipients and their families, for the employers who hire them, for our tax treasuries, and for our economy."

That echoed the judge's comments from a court hearing on Dec. 20, when he grilled an attorney for the Department of Justice over the government's justification for ending DACA, saying many people had come to rely on it and faced a "real" and "palpable" hardship from its loss.

Alsup also questioned whether the administration had conducted a thorough review before ending the program.

Brad Rosenberg, a Justice Department attorney, said the administration considered the effects of ending DACA and decided to phase it out over time instead of cutting it immediately.

is easily eroded when there are no shrubs.

The torrent arrived suddenly and with a sound some likened to a freight train as water carrying rocks and trees washed away cars and trashed homes, smashing some into piles of lumber and filling others waist-deep in mud.

"It looked like a World War I battlefield," Santa Barbara Sheriff Bill Brown said. "It was literally a carpet of mud and debris everywhere with huge boulders, rocks, downed trees, power lines, wrecked cars, lots of obstacles and challenges for rescue personnel to get to homes, let alone to get people out of them."

Thomas Tighe said he stepped outside his Montecito home in the middle of the night and heard "a deep rumbling, an ominous sound I knew was ... boulders moving as the mud was rising."

Asia

South Korea's Moon wants more talks to resolve North nuke issue

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea's president said Wednesday he's open to meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un if certain conditions are met, as he vowed to push for more talks with the North to resolve the nuclear standoff.

President Moon Jae-in spoke of a potential summit a day after the two Koreas held their first high-level meeting in about two years and agreed to cooperate in next month's Winter Olympics in South Korea. They agreed North Korea will send a delegation of officials, athletes and others to the Feb. 9-25 Games and they plan talks later on reducing tensions along their border.

"I keep myself open to any meeting including the summit (with North Korea) if it's helpful for an improvement of South-North relations or a settlement of the North Korean nuclear issue," Moon told reporters in a televised news conference. "But to have the summit, some conditions must be established. I think a certain level of success must be guaranteed."

Moon described the North's Olympic participation as "very desirable," saying he will push for more talks and cooperation with the North.

Tuesday's accord was

reached after Kim Jong Un made an abrupt push for improved ties with South Korea following a year of escalating tensions with the outside world over his expanding nuclear and missile programs. Critics say Kim may be trying to divide Seoul and Washington in a bid to weaken international pressure and sanctions on the North.

U.S. State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert welcomed the inter-Korean meeting which she said was "aimed at ensuring a safe, secure and successful" Olympics. The U.S. said it was consulting with South Korean officials to ensure that North Korea's participation in the Games does not violate U.N. sanctions.

North Korea's participation in the Winter Olympics won't affect U.S. participation in the Games, White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said, adding that the decision presents North Korea with an opportunity to see the value of ending its isolation from the rest of the world.

In his New Year's Day address, Kim said he was willing to send a delegation to the Pyeongchang Games. Moon welcomed Kim's outreach and proposed the talks at Panmunjom, a proposal North Korea

quickly accepted.

Chief North Korean delegate Ri Son Gwon read what he called a joint statement after Tuesday's talks, under which the two Koreas agreed to "actively cooperate" in the Olympics to "enhance the prestige of the Korean people." He said the two countries will hold follow-up working-level talks on their Olympic cooperation.

North Korea is not a winter sports power, and two of its figure skaters, Ryom Tae Ok and Kim Ju Sik, earlier became the only North Korean athletes to qualify before the North missed a confirmation deadline. The International Olympic Committee said Monday it has "kept the door open" for North Korea to take part.

North Korea also agreed to restore a military hotline communication channel with South Korea, according to chief South Korean delegate Cho Myoung-gyon.

The restoration of the hotline was the second such move in a week. All major inter-Korean communication channels had been shut down over the North's nuclear program in recent years. But North Korea reopened one channel last week as signs emerged of improving ties.

against Rohingya Muslims that sparked the exodus of some 650,000 people to Bangladesh. Than Zaw Aung, the lawyer for the journalists, said the prosecutor formally indicted the pair at Wednesday's hearing. They face up to 14 years in prison if convicted. Than Zaw Aung said he appealed for the two to be immediately released on bail, but the judge said he would review that request and rule at the next hearing on Jan. 23. "We are still far from the verdict," he said.

Supreme Court: Theaters do not have to play Indian anthem

NEW DELHI (AP)—India's Supreme Court on Tuesday reversed a ruling that ordered the national anthem to be played before movie screenings while audiences stand, a ruling that sparked a spate of arrests and attacks on cinema-goers who refused to rise. The new decision, Indian news outlets reported, allows theaters to choose whether to play the national anthem. The 2016 ruling, which the court had said was designed to instill patriotism, set off a wave of attacks in theaters, including one on a disabled man in a wheelchair. The court had indicated it might reverse its ruling. During a hearing last year, a group of justices noted that "Citizens cannot be forced to carry patriotism on their sleeves and courts cannot inculcate patriotism among people through its order," the Press Trust of India news agency reported. The court has also ordered that a government commission be established to recommend further decisions on whether the anthem should be played in theaters.

World

Russia takes aim at US over series of Syria drone attacks

MOSCOW (AP)—Russia said Tuesday that a recent series of drone attacks on its military bases in Syria would have required assistance from a country possessing satellite navigation technology—a statement that appeared to be aimed at the United States.

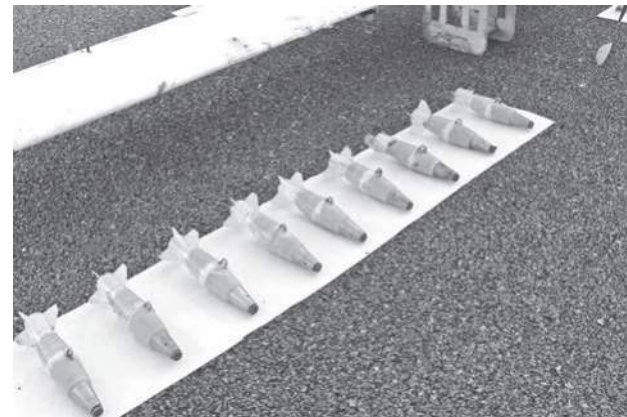
Russia's Defense Ministry said its forces repelled a series of drone attacks Saturday on the Hemeimeem air base and a naval facility in Tartus, adding that out of the 13 drones involved, seven were shot down and six were forced to land without inflicting any damage.

Without blaming any specific country, the ministry said data for the attacks could only have been obtained "from one of the countries that possesses know-how in satellite navigation."

In Tuesday's statement, it noted a "strange coincidence" of a U.S. military intelligence plane flying over the Mediterranean near the two Russian bases at the moment of the attack.

The Pentagon denied any involvement.

"Any suggestion that U.S. or coalition forces played a role in an attack on a Russian base is without any basis in fact and is utterly irresponsible," said Marine Maj.



AP
In this photo taken from the Russian Defence Ministry Press Service Facebook page on Tuesday, Jan. 9 2018, mortar shells are lined up next to one of the drones that was forced to land after an unsuccessful attack attempt at Hemeimeem air base in Syria.

Adrian Rankine-Galloway, a Pentagon spokesman.

The U.S. and Russia support opposing sides of the Syrian civil war.

Russian President Vladimir Putin declared victory in Syria last month and ordered a partial troops pullout, and the Kremlin said late Monday that the number of Russian troops left in Syria is sufficient for fending off any attacks by militants.

Asked Tuesday whether the withdrawal could have been premature in view of the drone attack, Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov said the Russian forces in Syria have "all the necessary means" to counter any challenge.

Syria's President Bashar Assad has recovered major territory from rebels in Syria in the past two years, largely because of Russia's military support. His forces are currently battling rebels on two fronts, in the northwestern Idlib province and in the eastern suburbs of Damascus.

Opposition activists have reported airstrikes and shelling of rebel-held Damascus suburbs that killed and wounded dozens. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said warplanes attacked several suburbs of Damascus, including Saqba, where a man and a child were killed and 13 others were wounded.

UN official condemns Congo's violent repression of protests

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The U.N. peacekeeping chief condemned "violent repression" by Congo security forces against demonstrators protesting the refusal of President Joseph Kabila to step down and warned Tuesday that further electoral delays risk fueling political tensions.

Jean-Pierre Lacroix told the Security Council that "the crisis of legitimacy" for Congo's institutions and a lack of progress toward implementing a 2016 electoral agreement fueled "frustrations, impatience and tensions that led to violence" on New Year's Eve.

Priests and activists had called for peaceful demonstrations after Mass on Dec. 31, one year after the Roman Catholic Church oversaw the signing of the accord that set a new election date to ease tensions in the mineral-rich country. More than 160 churches participated in the demonstrations.

Kabila, whose mandate

ended in December 2016, agreed to set an election by the end of 2017, but Congo's election commission said the vote couldn't be held until December 2018.

The U.N. Mission in Congo and police have said security forces killed at least seven people and at least one policeman died in violence during the protests by more than a thousand people in the capital of Kinshasa.

The U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Nikki Haley, said the excessive force by government security forces included using live ammunition against protesters and tear gas inside churches and arresting civilians including altar boys.

"To hear reports of such brutality and cruelty against innocent civilians and children in the most sacred of places is truly horrifying," she said in a statement.

Lacroix and Haley urged Congo's government to hold security forces accountable

for the violence.

Congolese Ambassador Ignace Gata Mavita played down the clashes and insisted there were no deaths linked to the unauthorized demonstrations.

He told the council there were five violent deaths throughout the country Dec. 31—two thieves, a "terrorist" on a wanted list, a police officer "killed by terrorists" and "an unidentified terrorist" killed in a clash with security forces in volatile Kasai.

Gata Mavita said Kabila underscored on Dec. 31 that authorities are determined to hold elections on Dec. 23, 2018.

"The right attitude of all political actors and all Congolese people should be to do everything possible to prepare for the smooth holding of these elections in a peaceful manner," Gata Mavita said. "It is not normal to see the kind of unrest and organization of demonstrations that were at the heart of the events that took place on Dec. 31."

ASIAN BRIEFS

Suicide bomber targeting police kills 6 in Pakistan

QUETTA, Pakistan (AP)—A suicide bomber targeting a police truck in Pakistan killed six people and wounded 17 on Tuesday, officials said. Abdur Razzaq Cheema, the police chief of the city of Quetta, where the attack took place, said four of those killed and most of the wounded were policemen. The Pakistani Taliban claimed the attack, saying a suicide bomber targeted a police contingent returning from duty at the provincial assembly building. The assembly met Tuesday for a no-confidence vote against the province's chief minister, Shanul-lah Zehri, who resigned from his post before the vote could be taken. He is likely to be replaced with another member of former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's party. The Baluchistan province has long been the scene of a low-level insurgency by Baluch separatists. Islamic militants also operate in the region.

Reuters journalists charged with violating Myanmar law

BANGKOK (AP)—Prosecutors in Myanmar formally charged two journalists from the Reuters news agency on Wednesday with violating the Official Secrets Act, signaling the case will go forward despite international condemnation. Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo were arrested Dec. 12 after police accused them of violating the colonial-era law by acquiring "important secret papers" from two policemen. The police officers had worked in Rakhine state, where security forces are blamed for rights abuses

Focus

A look at guns sold by police that ended up at crime scenes

AP
This 2014 photo provided by the Yakima Police Department shows a Smith & Wesson 9-mm pistol on a table in the apartment where Kyle Juhl used it to kill himself in Yakima, Wash.

By MARTHA BELLISLE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEATTLE (AP)—A yearlong Associated Press analysis found more than a dozen firearms sold by law enforcement agencies in Washington state since 2010 later became evidence in new criminal investigations.

Identifying guns sold by law enforcement and matching them to new crimes required extensive research and dozens of public records requests to individual agencies.

Using those records, the AP created a database of almost 6,000 firearms sold by law enforcement since 2010. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives declined to release tracking information on guns associated with crimes, so the AP collected that information from individual agencies and compared it with its own database to find firearms with matching make, model, caliber and serial numbers.

Below are details about guns sold by law enforcement that were later picked up at crime scenes:

BABY SHOT IN CAR SEAT

The Washington State Patrol traded a batch of crime guns with a firearms dealer in June 2010. The batch included a Lorcin L380 semi-automatic pistol. In April 2015, a gang member shot at a car carrying a couple and their year-old daughter. One of the bullets hit the child in the head and killed her. While searching a home frequented by the suspected shooter and many other gang members, the Kent Police Department found a Lorcin L380 semi-automatic pistol—the gun sold by the State Patrol.

TEXT THREATS

The Pierce County Sheriff's Office in April 2014 sold a list of guns at auction that included a Mossberg 12-gauge shotgun. In October 2016, Jaylen Bolar sent text messages to his mother, threatening to kill her and others. Angela Almo contacted a behavioral health center instead of the police because she knew her son had firearms, including a Mossberg 12-gauge shotgun and she feared he'd be killed in a standoff with authorities.

When the Tacoma police became involved, he denied it, but his aunt confirmed that she, too, had received threats. Robin Olson showed an officer her phone, which contained a message from Bolar asking his uncle to kill him because he was tired of living.

Bolar also threatened to kill a woman who used to be his boss. He was taken into custody, and a search of his home found two firearms in his bedroom. One was the Mossberg shotgun sold by the sheriff's office.

JUVENILES IN STOLEN CAR

The Aberdeen Police Department sold a Lorcin Model L380 pistol in February 2011. In May 2016, the Kent Police Department located a stolen vehicle parked at the Benson Village Apartments and found a gun under the seat—the Lorcin Model L380 pistol sold by Aberdeen police. The three juveniles who stole the car were convicted felons.

DRUNKEN FELON

The Kitsap County Sheriff's Office sold a Hi Point 9mm pistol in March 2014. In October 2015, the Snohom-

ish County Sheriff's Office responded to a 911 call from a woman who said she heard what she thought was a gunshot and went outside to find her daughter's intoxicated boyfriend passed out on the front porch. When deputies arrived, they found a handgun, the Hi Point 9 mm pistol, on the ground next to the man. It was the gun sold by the Kitsap sheriff's office. A search found that the man was a convicted felon who wasn't permitted to have a gun. The deputy put the man in handcuffs and called for medical help.

PROHIBITED FROM HAVING GUN

The Washington State Patrol traded a Lorcin L380 semi-automatic pistol with a firearms dealer in June 2010. In May 2015, the Kent Police Department was investigating a 911 call and encountered four people outside the house. One of the men was prohibited from having a gun, but they found he was carrying a handgun, the Lorcin L380 semi-automatic pistol sold by the State Patrol. The gun had been reported stolen, and he was arrested.

DRUG HOUSE ASSAULT

The Aberdeen Police Department traded a JC Higgins .22-caliber rifle with a firearms dealer in February 2011. In April 2015, the Yakima Police Department responded to a domestic violence assault involving a JC Higgins .22-caliber rifle with the same serial number. The dispute involved an elderly man who had handled his wife roughly and threatened her sister. The man was charged, and police took his firearm. In October 2015, Kent police searched a suspect-

ed drug house and arrested several people wanted on felony warrants. They found a .22 caliber rifle—the JC Higgins rifle sold by the Aberdeen police.

FACEBOOK POSTS ABOUT KILLING

The Thurston County Narcotics Task Force sold a Smith & Wesson pistol in August 2012. In October 2013, the Tacoma Police went to the University of Washington, Tacoma to investigate a report of a student who was posting photos of a gun on Facebook and said he had "vivid, colorful dreams of shooting and killing lots of people last night." Police found in his backpack a Smith and Wesson pistol, the one sold by the narcotics task force.

COCAINE PARTY FAVORS

The Bonney Lake Police Department in March 2011 traded a Davis Industries .380-caliber handgun with a firearms dealer who sold it to the public. In February 2012, Kent police stopped a man for an expired registration and discovered baggies of cocaine in his car. He said they were party favors. They also found his concealed handgun, the firearm sold by the police.

THREATS TO KILL

Longview Police Department sold a Davis Industries .22 caliber pistol in August 2016. The Thurston County Sheriff's Office responded to a 911 call in April 2017 from a man who said his father headed to a house with a gun and planned to threaten the occupants. Jesse Brown threatened to kill the men who lived there and was arrested. Officers confiscated his Da-

vis Industries .22 caliber pistol—the one sold by Longview police—and 15 other firearms.

DRUNKEN FATHER

The Thurston County Sheriff's Office sold a Mossberg, Model 590, 12-gauge shotgun in December 2014. In March 2016, the Tacoma police responded to a call by a 12-year-old girl who said she and her sister fled their home because their father was drunk and was threatening to shoot his girlfriend and threatening to beat up one of the girls because he couldn't find his gun. The police later found a Mossberg, Model 590, 12-gauge shotgun—the gun sold by the Sheriff's Office—in the bathtub.

MAN'S SUICIDE

The Washington State Patrol traded a batch of guns to a firearms vendor in June 2010 that included a Smith and Wesson .9mm handgun. In September 2014, the Yakima Police Department responded to a report of a suicidal man with a gun. They arrived to find 24-year-old Kyle Juhl with a gunshot wound to the head. He used a Smith and Wesson .9mm handgun, the one sold by the State Patrol.

MENTAL HEALTH EMERGENCY

The Thurston County Narcotics Task Force sold a Springfield Armory .40-caliber pistol in December 2013. In February 2014, the Seattle Police Department helped take firearms from a man who was having a mental health emergency and was at the Involuntary Treatment Act court. One of the guns was the Springfield Armory .40-caliber pistol sold by the task force.

Environment

2017 was a hot and disaster-filled year for the United States, NOAA says

TNS
Residential neighborhoods near the Interstate 10 sit in floodwater in the wake of Hurricane Harvey in Houston, on Tuesday, Aug. 29, 2017.

By AMINA KHAN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

The year 2017 was the third-warmest on record for the United States, and featured a pileup of weather and climate disasters that cost the nation a record-breaking \$306 billion, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The preliminary data released by NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information serve as another indication that climate change shows little sign of relenting — with troubling implications for the risk of extreme weather and climate events in the future.

"Clearly, 2017 underscores what we've seen in the past with regard to better mitigating our risk and enhanced frequency of weather and climate extremes," Adam Smith, an applied climatologist at NOAA, said at a briefing Monday.

Here are some highlights from the new NOAA report.

Temperature

The results put annual average temperatures for the Lower 48 states at 54.6 degrees Fahrenheit, 2.6 degrees higher than the average for the 20th century. That places 2017 in the middle of the nation's top-five hottest years since record-keeping began in 1895. All five top years — including the country's warmest, 2016 — have taken place since 2006.

With heat hitting parts of the Southwest, the southern Plains

and the Southeast, several individual states saw their highest-ever annual temperatures: Arizona, New Mexico, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina. Thirty-two states, including Alaska, had annual temperatures that ranked in their top-10 warmest. Some areas, such as part of the interior Northwest, saw below-average temperatures.

"Not everywhere was warm, but when we do average those temperatures across the entire U.S., it ranked as the third-warmest on record," Jake Crouch, a NOAA climate scientist, said at the briefing. In fact, every state in the lower 48 plus Alaska had above-average annual temperatures for the third year in a row.

Last year also marks the 21st year in a row that the average annual temperature has been higher than the 1901-2000 average, Crouch said.

Extremes

The year 2017 also included 16 weather and climate disasters with losses exceeding \$1 billion each — two inland floods, one freeze event, eight severe storms, three tropical cyclones, as well as drought and wildfire, Smith said.

Keep in mind, the average annual number of events from 1980 to 2017 was just 5.8 per year, and the annual average for the most recent five years (that is, 2013 to 2017) was 11.6 events. Climate scientists have long suggested that climate change may lead to a

higher risk of certain extreme weather and climate events.

While those 16 "billion-dollar" events tied 2017 with 2011 for the highest number in a single year, 2017 was by far the most expensive, racking up total costs of \$306.2 billion. The new record far outpaced the previous record cost of \$214.8 billion in 2005, a year that suffered Hurricanes Rita, Wilma, Dennis and Katrina. In fact, 2017 was a record year for hurricane costs alone — some \$265 billion in losses out of the total \$306 billion. Those included Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria, which joined Hurricanes Sandy (2012) and Katrina (2005) as the top-five costliest hurricanes in U.S. history.

Regional highlights

Last year was also the most expensive wildfire season, with a price tag of \$18 billion, Smith said, tripling the cost of the previous wildfire record from 1991. Those numbers include the massive Northern California fires this past fall as well as the blazes that burned through Southern California in December.

Last year was also the country's 20th wettest on record, as well as the fifth year in a row that had above-average precipitation. The year started with a very wet winter for the Northwest, but ended with the ninth-driest December on record. This helped lay the deadly groundwork for the fires that scarred California, the scientists pointed out.

"The really wet winter there allowed vegetation to flourish, and then during the typically dry summer and autumn period that vegetation dried out — providing ample fuels for wildfires," Crouch said. "It's been a pretty devastating year out West, in that respect."

What's to blame

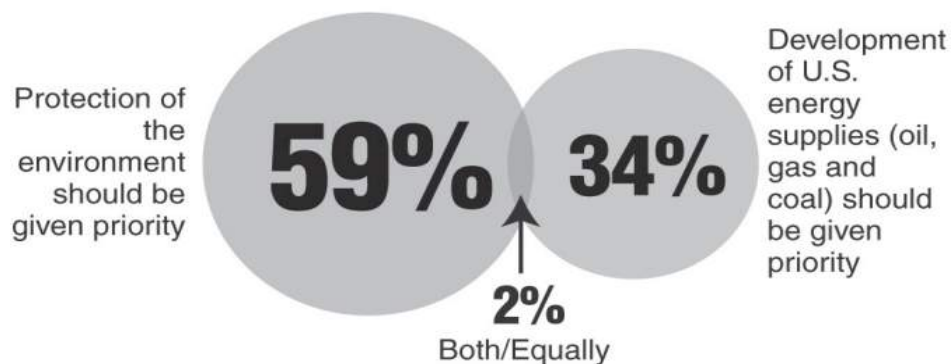
The scientists could not say how much of the high costs of this year's major disasters was due to risks associated specifically with global warming and climate change, and how much was due to the fact that humans tend to live in cities and build vital infrastructure along coasts, rivers and other

high-risk zones.

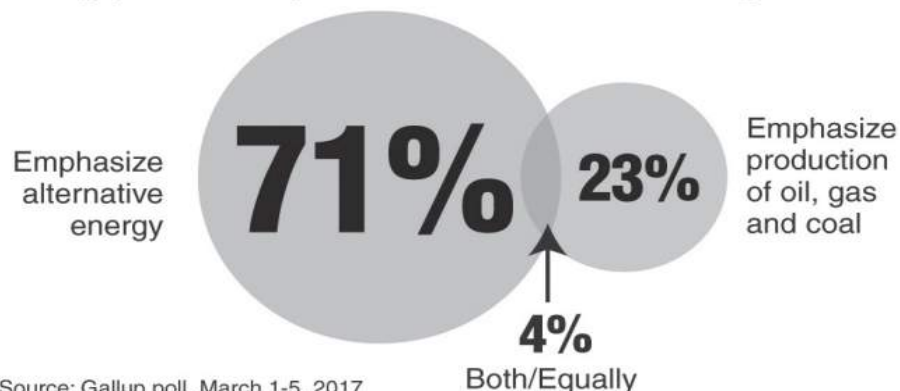
"Both the economists and the physical scientists retrospectively will look at that," said Deke Arndt, chief of the monitoring section for NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information. "But those kind of happen at the speed of science."

Americans' views on energy trade-offs

Which of these statements about the environment and energy production do you most agree with?



Which of the following approaches to solving the nation's energy problems do you think the U.S. should follow right now?



Source: Gallup poll, March 1-5, 2017
Graphic: Staff, TNS

Life & Style

Bannon to exit Breitbart News Network after break with Trump

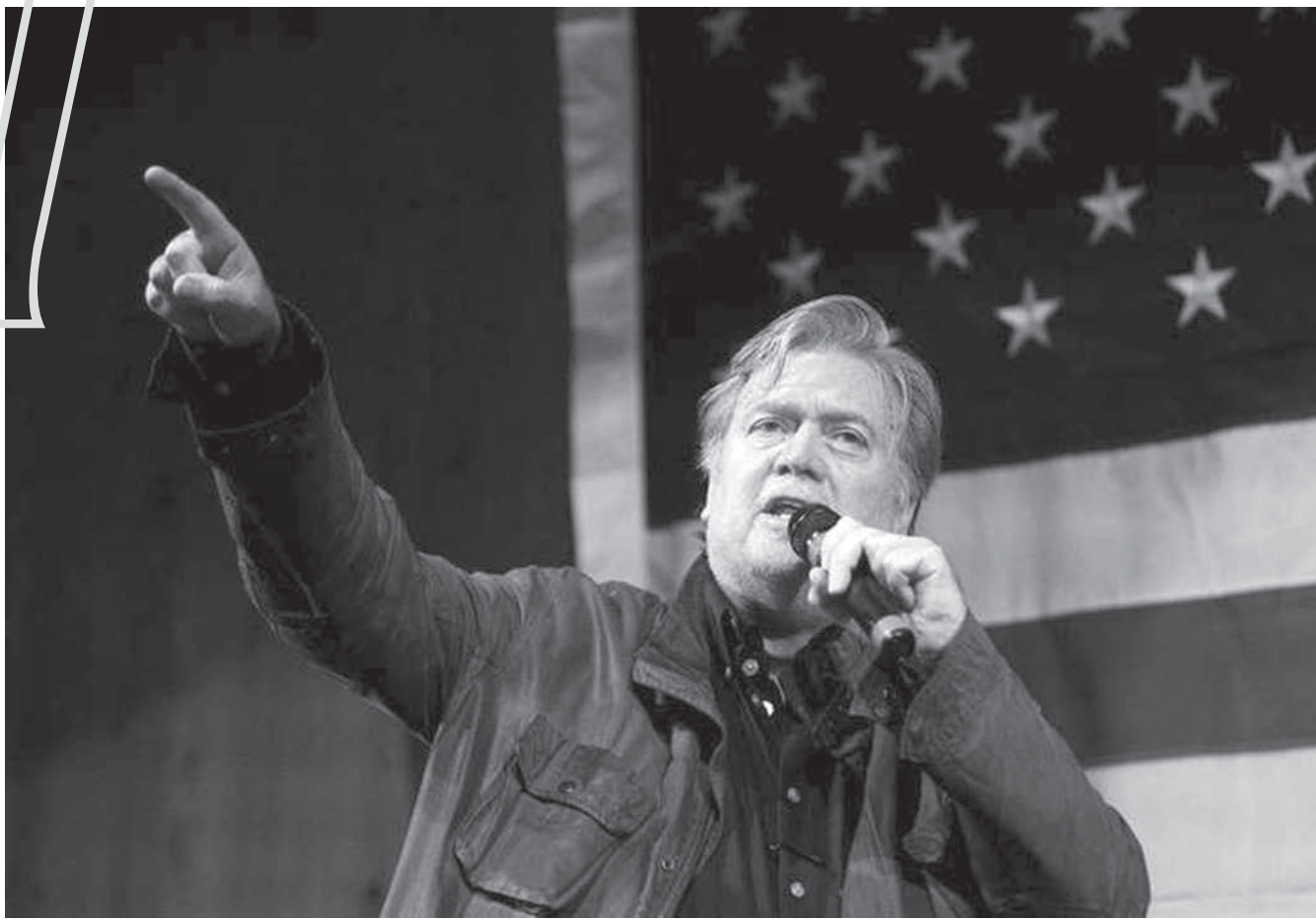
WASHINGTON (AP)—Former White House chief strategist Steve Bannon is stepping down as chairman of Breitbart News Network after a public break with President Donald Trump.

Breitbart announced Tuesday that Bannon would step down as executive chairman of the conservative news site, less than a week after Bannon's explosive criticisms of Trump and his family were published in a new book.

A report on the Breitbart website quotes Bannon saying, "I'm proud of what the Breitbart team has accomplished in so short a period of time in building out a world-class news platform."

Trump lashed out at Bannon for comments made in Michael Wolff's "Fire and Fury: Inside the Trump White House," which questions the president's fitness for office. As Trump aides called him disloyal and disgraceful, the president branded his former chief strategist on Twitter as "Sloppy Steve," an apparent reference to Bannon's often unkempt appearance, and declared that "he lost his mind" when he was pushed out of the White House last August.

The president was livid about Bannon's remarks—not



In this Nov. 9, 2017, file photo, Steve Bannon, speaks during an event in Manchester, N.H. Breitbart News Network announced Tuesday, Jan. 9, 2018, that Bannon is stepping down as chairman of the conservative news site.

just at the insults about his family, but also at his former strategist's apparent intent to take credit for Trump's election victory and political movement, according to a White House official and two

outside advisers not authorized to speak publicly about internal conversations.

After days of silence amid withering criticism from his former colleagues and his largest benefactor, Bannon

tried to make amends. He issued a statement Sunday praising the president's eldest son, Donald Trump Jr., whom he was quoted accusing of treasonous behavior in the book. Bannon did not apologize for

his criticism of the president's daughter and son-in-law, Ivanka Trump and Jared Kushner, with whom he had squabbled inside the West Wing.

Bannon's departure from Breitbart came as a shock to some of his allies. One said Bannon was telling people as recently as Monday that he expected to stay on.

Bannon's breakup with Breitbart is also costing him his daily show on the conservative talk station on satellite radio network SiriusXM. The company announced it is ending its relationship with Bannon, stating its programming agreement is with Breitbart.

Inside the White House, Bannon was viewed as the keeper of Trump's nationalistic flame, charting the progress on the president's promises to his base on dry erase boards

in his office. But Bannon was marginalized in the months before his ouster over Trump's concerns that the top aide was being viewed as an Oval Office puppeteer.

Trump had stayed in touch with the Breitbart head after he left the White House in August, including consulting him on last month's Alabama Senate race. But since Bannon's quotes in the Wolff book emerged, the White House began sending Republicans and conservative figures a clear message: Trump or Bannon.

The chief strategist had lost many allies in the West Wing after Chief of Staff John Kelly's staff shakeup and was blamed for some of the infighting that had paralyzed the White House. Some West Wing aides in recent days had made little effort to hide their happiness that Bannon had suffered such a public rebuke.

The White House did not immediately respond to the news of Bannon's ouster, but press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders last week called on the conservative site—which has been a steadfast backer of the president—to "look at and consider" parting ways with Bannon.

Despite the setback, Bannon has told confidants that he believes Trump, after a cooling-off period, will again seek his counsel, noting that the president often maintains contact with aides he has fired. But some Trump allies hope the president will permanently cut off his former strategist, and the fate of Bannon's insurgency against the Republican establishment is now in doubt.

On Monday, deputy press secretary Hogan Gidley said Bannon's apology did not alter his standing with the president. "I don't believe there's any way back for Mr. Bannon at this point," Gidley said.

If Winfrey runs, CBS News faces potential conflict

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—In an odd twist, fellow hosts of "CBS This Morning" turned to their colleague Gayle King—famous friend of Oprah Winfrey—for an interview Tuesday about whether her pal would run for president.

If a Winfrey candidacy moves beyond idle chatter, one of the leading figures on a CBS News show that prides itself on hard-nosed journalism would have a conflict of interest on a major story.

King attended the Golden Globe Awards on Sunday and said on "CBS This Morning" that she spent several hours with Winfrey after the speech that fueled political speculation. King said her friend is intrigued by the idea of a candidacy, but didn't think she was actively considering it.

CBS' Norah O'Donnell and Jeff Glor considered King's close relationship with Winfrey such common knowledge that they didn't even explain it before asking questions on Tuesday's show. The two women have been good friends since they both worked at a Baltimore television station in their early 20s.

Watching the interview was weird, CNN's Dana Bash said on that network about an hour later.

If the candidacy becomes real, "Gayle's gotta leave," responded CNN's morning host, Chris Cuomo.

Then, perhaps remembering that his brother, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, has been mentioned as a 2020 presidential candidate, Cuomo quickly switched gears.

"I have the right to change my opinion," he said. "Does she have to leave? Maybe she does. I guess they could do the coverage in a way where she never handles it. But it would raise questions with people."

CBS will address the issue if and when it becomes one, CBS News President David Rhodes said. The network has always been transparent in letting viewers know that Winfrey and King are friends, he said. Winfrey also works for CBS News; she does occasional stories for "60 Minutes."

Rhodes praised King for how she handled the on-air discussion with O'Donnell and Glor.

"It's difficult to be part of

the news when you cover the news and she helped people understand what was going on with the story," Rhodes said.

King's insight is useful as long as chatter about Winfrey's candidacy is a parlor game and not reality, said Al Tompkins, an instructor in broadcast journalism for the Poynter Institute.

"The relationship between King and Winfrey is well known and viewers can filter what they hear from Gayle through that filter," Tompkins said. "If Oprah did run, it would be a tougher relationship to navigate ... Today, with so many people being so skeptical or cynical of what they see, hear and read in journalism, the cleaner we can keep the lines between journalists and politicians the better."

Mark Feldstein, a journalism professor at the University of Maryland, said CBS News would have to take King off campaign stories is Winfrey were to run. That could be awkward for the show's format; the three hosts often sit at a table and discuss stories or interview newsmakers together.

"The public needs to be as-

sured that the news they get is as objective as humanly possible," Feldstein said. "That obviously is not the case if an anchor is reporting on a close friend."

King was quoted after Winfrey's speech as saying it gave her "goosebumps." She said on the air Tuesday that it was "electrifying. It was the right person giving the right speech at the right time."

The danger of such words of praise is they can become weapons in a political environment, by people who are looking for signs of bias.

Tim Graham, director of media analysis for the conservative watchdog Media Research Center, said King's job "is like having an Oprah press spokesperson on staff. She's helping Oprah milk the speculation for all it's worth."

Some have interpreted King's comments on Tuesday as dampening that speculation. Rhodes said he'd heard no complaints about the language that she used and called concerns about it hypothetical.

After speaking on the issue Tuesday, King told viewers, "no matter what happens, I will be at 'CBS This Morning.'"

Catherine Deneuve, others defend men's 'right' to seduce

PARIS (AP)—French movie star Catherine Deneuve and other prominent French women say men are being unfairly targeted by sexual misconduct allegations and should be free to hit on women.

Deneuve was among about 100 performers, scholars and others who signed an open letter published Tuesday by the newspaper Le Monde saying the "legitimate protest against sexual violence" stemming from the Harvey Weinstein scandal has gone too far and threatens hard-

won sexual freedoms.

The letter reflects France's mixed feelings about widespread accusations of systematic sexual misconduct by powerful men in multiple countries in recent months.

France is home to famed feminists and its own "me too" movement, and the Deneuve-signed letter drew much criticism. However many people echo Deneuve's concerns of a new "puritanism" that goes against French traditions of seduction.

Eminem, The Killers, Muse lead lineup for Bonnaroo Festival

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Eminem, The Killers, Muse, Future, Bassnectar and Sturgill Simpson lead the lineup for this year's Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival.

The festival announced its lineup on Tuesday for the music festival to be held June 7-10 in Manchester, about 65 miles southeast of Nashville, Tennessee. Other artists include Bon Iver, Khalid, Kaskade, Paramore, Alt-J, Dua Lipa and Sheryl Crow.

Additional artists include Anderson .Paak & The Free Nationals, Sylvan Esso, Nile Rodgers & Chic, Old Crow Medicine Show, Trombone Shorty & Orleans Avenue and Mavis Staples.

Tickets go on sale Friday at 10 a.m. at www.bonnaroo.com.

James Franco's *New York Times* talk canceled amid allegations

NEW YORK (AP)—The *New York Times* has canceled a public event with James Franco days after the Golden Globe winner was accused of sexual misconduct.

The TimesTalk event scheduled for Wednesday was intended to feature "The Disaster Artist" director and star and his brother and co-star, Dave Franco, discussing the film with a Times reporter.

The Times said in a statement that "given the controversy surrounding recent allegations" it was canceling the event.

Actress Violet Paley and filmmaker Sarah Tither-Kaplan have recently accused Franco on Twitter of earlier instances of sexual misconduct.

Franco was in attendance at Tuesday's National Board of Review Awards gala in New York City to present his film's adapted screenplay award. He did not comment on the allegations. An email seeking comment from his publicist was not immediately returned.



AP
Dave Franco, left, poses with James Franco, winner of the award for best performance by an actor in a motion picture - musical or comedy for "The Disaster Artist," at the InStyle and Warner Bros. Golden Globes after-party at the Beverly Hilton Hotel on Sunday, Jan. 7, 2018, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Rose McGowan: Weinstein legal action costing her house

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—Rose McGowan, refusing to mention Harvey Weinstein by name, said unspecified legal action by the man she instead calls "the monster" is forcing her to sell her house to fight him.

The actress-turned-activist spoke to TV critics Tuesday about her upcoming documentary series "Citizen Rose" and what she called her global struggle against sexual assault and economic injustice.

McGowan helped start a national public discussion when she accused Hollywood mogul Weinstein of raping her. Weinstein, facing numerous other accusations of misconduct, has repeatedly denied "allegations of non-consensual sex."



AP
In this Oct. 27, 2017, file photo, actress Rose McGowan speaks at the inaugural Women's Convention in Detroit. McGowan spoke to TV critics Tuesday about her upcoming documentary series "Citizen Rose" and what she called her global struggle against sexual assault and economic injustice.

"Citizen Rose," debuting Jan. 30 on E!, refers only to Weinstein as "HW" or "the monster," said executive director Andrea Metz. In video remarks before the panel, McGowan asked reporters to refrain from saying Weinstein's name and to ask respectful questions to acknowledge her humanity.

The former star of "Charmed" was asked if she had any qualms working for E!, which was called out on the Golden Globes red carpet by stars unhappy with E! host Catt Sadler's departure over pay disparity. The issue arose after she'd made a deal with the channel for series, McGowan said, adding, "Let

me hang out for a while and maybe things will change."

Frances Berwick, who oversees E! as president of Lifestyles Networks for NBC Universal Cable Entertainment, addressed the issue after McGowan's Q&A. Sadler, who said she quit E! because she was paid less than fellow host Jason Kennedy, had a different role than Kennedy and therefore a different salary, Berwick said.

Sadler was a daytime host and Kennedy worked in prime-time news and on the red carpet, Berwick told the Television Critics Association.

McGowan has been privately taping her life for several years, joining with Bunim-

Murray Productions to create the documentary series, McGowan said.

"I want to be like Gertrude Stein, to have a conversation with the world instead of just in my living room," said McGowan, who is highly visible on social media. She called the series "raw" and her "truth."

"I'm really just trying to stop international rapists and child molesters," she said at another point, after a reporter had asked if she was a "warrior."

McGowan separated herself from Hollywood's anti-misconduct Time's Up initiative, saying she doesn't believe change will come from those who hold power in the industry.

Away granddaughter avoids grandma's attempts to connect

DEAR ABBY: My 18-year-old granddaughter ran away twice last year. She's now living with her boyfriend and refuses to have any contact with her dad. I know my son is very strict, and I'm pretty sure she could just no longer live by his rules. Her mom passed away eight months ago, and my son is all she has besides her sister.

She opened a Facebook page. I was able to write to her a couple of times and she responded. She isn't answering my messages now. I suspect her boyfriend is controlling and is preventing her from contacting her family. I'm also afraid she may be involved with drugs now. She and the boyfriend were recently arrested for shoplifting, and this just isn't typical of my granddaughter.

I have trouble sleeping at night worrying about her. I know she's an adult, but I don't want her to give up on her family who loves her. Do you have any suggestions? Should I go to the house and try and see her, or must we just sit back and wait for her to grow up? Any advice will be appreciated.

WORRIED NANA

DEAR WORRIED NANA: Do not just sit back. By all means, visit your granddaughter! She needs to know you love her and will be supportive if things don't work out with her boyfriend.

Because she's 18 and now considered an adult, you can't force her to reunite with her father, whose heavy-handed parenting may or may not be the reason she left home. But you can, however, point out that if she needs something, there are better ways to go about acquiring it than shoplifting. You should also encourage her to find a job. If she does, it will increase her independence, not only from her father, but also her boyfriend, if it becomes necessary.

DEAR ABBY: I was recently diagnosed with a stage four cancer. My surgeon has offered me an opportunity to be part of a clinical trial, which my family is aware of. They do not, however, know the details of how far the cancer has spread.

The prognosis for patients in this trial is about two more years. My wife thinks I should share this information with my extended family and friends immediately (although there are few signs that I'm ill). I prefer to remain silent until the disease catches up with me and my time gets closer. Your advice or reader response would be greatly appreciated regarding this very emotional decision.

KEEPING IT TO MYSELF

DEAR KEEPING IT TO YOURSELF: I'm sorry about your diagnosis. I'm sure when your letter is published there will

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



be a tsunami of reactions—both pro and con—from readers.

Of course your wishes should be respected, but since you asked, I am inclined to agree with your wife. Your illness affects not only you but also the rest of your family and friends. If you reveal your prognosis now, it will give the people who love you an opportunity to step up to the plate and offer emotional support, not only to you, but also to her and your family.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

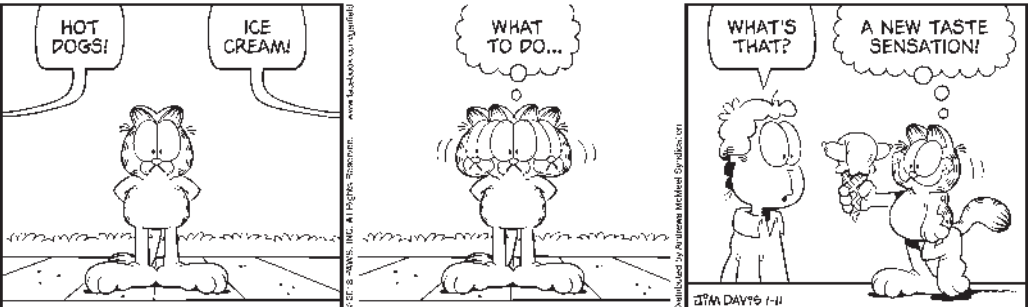
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



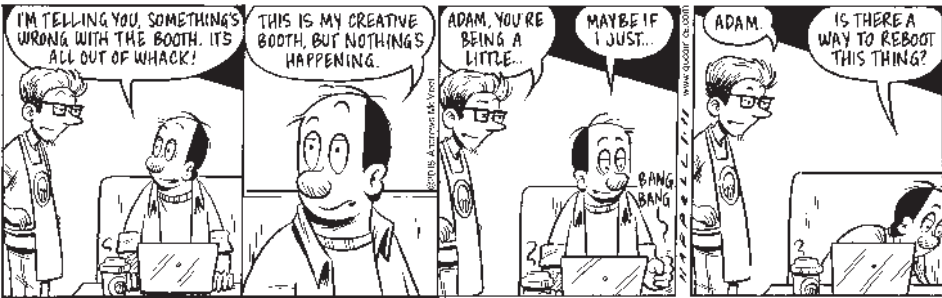
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



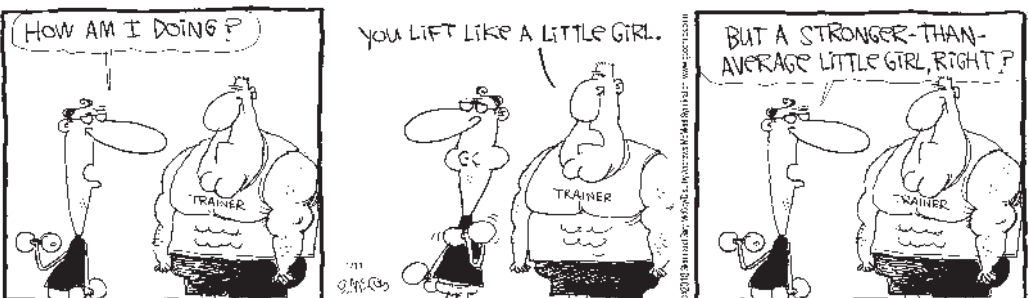
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- 1 Tin Man's coach
- 4 Earring type
- 8 Batting practice area
- 12 One of us
- 13 Sea eagle
- 14 Cupid's specialty
- 15 Glistening
- 17 Novelist
- 18 URL ending
- 19 Mountaintop access
- 21 Shriveled grape
- 24 QB's gains
- 25 "As I see it," in a text
- 26 Bit of advice
- 28 Pound fraction
- 32 Go sight-seeing
- 34 Profit
- 36 Sandbox toy
- 37 Plus
- 39 Prattle

DOWN

- 60 Dresden
- 61 Utter
- 1 Popeye's Olive
- 2 Debtor's note
- 3 Delectable
- 4 Recluse
- 5 Spanish gold
- 6 Burden
- 7 Irksome
- 8 Evokes
- 9 Mine, in
- 10 Blunder
- 11 Formerly, once
- 16 Lean-
- 20 Altar promise
- 21 Actress Moreno
- 22 Hebrew prophet
- 23 French diarist
- 27 Identify
- 29 Captain Nemo's sub
- 30 New York's — Field
- 31 Flair
- 33 Lucille Ball, for one
- 35 Spigot
- 38 Bar bill
- 40 Light-house light
- 43 Georgia city
- 45 French vineyard
- 46 Family
- 47 Ethereal
- 48 Leave out
- 49 Exceptional
- 53 Floral ring
- 54 Italian article
- 55 Tofu source

Solution time: 24 mins.

Yesterday's answer 1-11

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13				14			
15			16				17			
	18			19		20				
21	22			23		24				
25			26		27	28		29	30	31
32		33		34		35		36		
37			38		39		40		41	
			42		43		44		45	
46	47	48			49		50			
51				52		53			54	55
56				57					58	
59				60					61	

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Amanda Peet, 46; Mary J. Blige, 47; Kim Coles, 56; Naomi Judd, 72.

Happy Birthday: Personal and professional situations will intertwine as you forge into the year with anticipation, hope and a desire to reach your goals. Added stamina and discipline will encourage you to go after your life goals passionately and without hesitation. Change can be good as long as you have done your homework and are prepared to follow your dreams to fruition. Your numbers are 6, 14, 21, 25, 32, 37, 42.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Rely only on facts that you can verify, not hearsay. Take your position seriously and only make decisions that have been well-thought-out. Hard work will pay off, so don't give up before you get started. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Personal gains look promising. You'll find interesting ways to improve your skills or qualifications. Learn all you can, set up meetings and travel to destinations that are related to your plans. Personal improvements are encouraged. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): A short trip or a meeting will help you gather information necessary to make an honest appraisal. Work hard to bring about a change you've been longing to put into play. Avoid unnecessary purchases or paying for someone else's mistake. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Socialize and explore new interests. Your creative imagination will be in overdrive, sparking all sorts of ideas. Share your thoughts, col-

laborate and be open to partnerships. Children will offer unusual insight. Love and romance will improve your personal life. *****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Personal improvements should be made. Whether it's updating your look or picking up valuable skills, the changes you make will give you a better chance to excel. Being reliable should come first when dealing with others. **

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Make alterations to your living arrangements based on your intuition and emotional needs. You have plenty to gain if you broaden your outlook and explore your options. Personal improvements will lead to greater confidence and popularity. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Reevaluate what you have been doing up until this point in your life and consider your options. If things aren't going according to plan, seek sound advice from a trusted source. Take better care of your health. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Emotions will lead the way, and unique ideas and plans can be set into motion. Plan a trip or make positive adjustments to your lifestyle. Healthy activities will push you in a positive direction. Romance is highlighted. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't disclose where you keep your valuables or personal information. Try to be a good listener to avoid being asked questions you probably shouldn't answer. Intelligence and information are powerful tools when negotiating. ***

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Make suggestions and be prepared to follow through with your promises. Engage in bringing about positive changes and putting your best interests into play. Make a point to form partnerships and to work alongside those trying to make a difference. ****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): It's OK to be secretive with regard to your plans. Being prepared will make a difference to the outcome. Someone's emotional negativity will put a dent in your progress. Avoid unnecessary communication and travel. **

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Personal alterations will pay off and make you feel good. Dedication to a cause and using your powers of persuasion to get others to pitch in will make you a welcome candidate for advancement. Romance is highlighted. *****

Birthday Baby: You are engaging, intense and opportunistic. You are steady and precise.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

1						5		4
			5					
4				8	3			
		2		1			3	
		3		7		6		
	5			4		1		
			9	3				6
					8			
2		4						7

Difficulty Level ★★★

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WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

BREAKFAST IN JAPAN Solution: 8 letters

A P N A K O Y I H S O B E M U
R R U S T I C G G E D E I R F
O I W O O C O F F E E S L R R
M H A E T N E E R G O E E I T
A S R I H S A R A K R S C L A
T A M R J U I C E E H E N W S
I D O O F U R I K A K E I O T
C E G A B B A C S Y L G E B Y
I G R I L L A E O T E T T R K
A D T J I M K G Y N H O O O O
M I O A E A U N M G A V R I B
U R R S C R O A I N A T P L A
K R R N T D I L L S A L T Y C
A O A N U T N O K I A D S O H
H P C H I C K E N O M L A S I

Yesterday's Answer

6	1	9	8	3	4	2	7	5
7	3	8	1	5	2	6	4	9
4	2	5	6	9	7	3	8	1
1	9	6	5	4	8	7	2	3
8	5	3	7	2	6	1	9	4
2	7	4	3	1	9	8	5	6
3	4	2	9	7	1	5	6	8
5	6	7	4	8	3	9	1	2
9	8	1	2	6	5	4	3	7

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All, Aromatic, Bowl, Broil, Cabbage, Carrot, Cereal, Chicken, Coffee, Dalkon, Dashi, Food, Fresh, Fried Egg, Furikake, Genmai, Green Tea, Grill, Hakumai, Horse Mackerel, Iyokan, Juice, Karashi, Kobachi, Light, Miso, Natto, Pancakes, Porridge, Protein, Rice, Rustic, Salmon, Salty, Savory, Soymlk, Tasty, Toast, Tuna, Udon, Umeshoshi, Warm, Yogurt

Yesterday's Answer: Aquatic

To purchase the WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #1 or #2, order online at: www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 100 puzzles.)

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St. Jude Renal Care Facility, Inc.
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

- Must pass NCLEX-RN with current CNMI RN License
- Attended a hemodialysis training program
- Must hold a Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- One to two years hemodialysis experience or related field
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- Certification in Basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
- In-service training with Baxter Phoenix machine
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- Certificate from Junior College/Technician School in healthcare related field
- Attended a hemodialysis training program
- Three years hemodialysis experienced-preferred
- English language skills-proficient in spoken, written and comprehension
- Certification in Basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
- Flexible with time schedule

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- Operational knowledge of mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems
- Knowledge of the theory fluid dynamics
- Understand the mathematical relationships and common formulas of basic water treatment and distribution systems
- Know the specific operations of the water treatment distribution systems unique to a dialysis unit
- Be familiar with infection control of hemodialysis facilities, safety & life safety policies
- Pass the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency text for certified water treatment and distribution operators level II
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- Installs solar panels with experience in the maintenance of pv models
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- High school graduate or equivalent

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- Must be able to work flexible hours
- Must have own transportation

Interested applicant must submit resume or pick up application at St. Jude Renal Care Facility Inc. in Chalan Kiya, Saipan. Deadline to submit application will be on Friday, January 19, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. For more information, please call 234-2901 ext. 128.

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Steelers prepping for heavy dose of Jaguars' run game



PITTSBURGH (AP)—Technically it went into the scorebook as a 2-yard touch-

down run.

The highly GIF-able reality told a more compelling story, one that served as the symbolic launch point for both the Jacksonville Jaguars' breakout season and the rookie running back at the center of it all.

The Jaguars were driving deep in Pittsburgh territory early in the second quarter at Heinz Field on Oct. 8.

On second down at the Steelers 2, Jacksonville quarterback Blake Bortles took the snap and stuffed the ball in Leonard Fournette's gut.

Fournette took two steps then vaulted into the air at the 4.

All 240 pounds of him sailed over the line of scrimmage and landed untouched at least a yard into the end zone.

Just like that, Fournette and the Jaguars arrived, making the Steelers believers in the process.

"Fournette is good," said Steelers linebacker Bud Dupree, who then immediately corrected himself. "Fournette is great."

Yet for all of Fournette's breathtaking feats of athleticism—including a 90-yard bolt to the end zone that served as the exclamation point on Jacksonville's 30-9 victory three months ago, he's just part of a group that led the NFL in rushing.

While Pittsburgh (13-3) will be focusing on Fournette's No. 27 wherever he goes on Sunday when the Steelers host



Pittsburgh Steelers defensive back Mike Hilton (31) breaks up pass intended for Cleveland Browns wide receiver Rashard Higgins (81) during the second half of an NFL football game in Pittsburgh, Sunday, Dec. 31, 2017. Hilton could not hang onto the ball for the interception.

It's a formula that helped them reach the playoffs for the first time in a decade and one they used effectively—if not exactly glamorously—while outlasting Buffalo in the wildcard round last weekend.

"They stick to the run the whole game," Pittsburgh rookie outside linebacker T.J. Watt said. "It's not like we're going to shut it down for a couple plays and they're going to pass the rest of the game. We have to stop it through all four quarters."

Bortles included. For all of his occasional issues throwing the ball, Bortles can make up for it with his legs.

He actually ran for more yards (88) than he passed for (87) against the Bills. He had four runs of 10 yards or more. He only had five passes that traveled at least that distance.

"People talk about his skill-set or whatever," Steelers safety Mike Mitchell said. "At the end of the day they won the game. It's dangerous, we respect it. Our job is to be able to cover."

And tackle. And not get so caught up in trying to get to Bortles that they let him squirt loose, a bad habit Pittsburgh picked up at times this season even as it led the NFL and set a franchise record with 55 sacks, one more than the Jaguars.

the Jaguars (11-6) in the divisional round of the playoffs, they're well aware they can't take the other players in the backfield lightly.

Sure, Fournette finished with 1,040 yards rushing and nine touchdowns, Chris Ivory, T.J. Yeldon, Corey Grant and

Bortles combined for 1,205 yards and seven touchdowns. Even fullback Tommy Bohannon found the end zone twice.

"Minimizing their run is more than just focusing on Leonard," Pittsburgh coach Mike Tomlin said Tuesday.

"Obviously, we have to do a

good job there, but we have to do a good job for 60 minutes and in all areas. We want to minimize the ways that they run the ball and the ways that they possess the ball and control the game."

The Jaguars finished with 231 yards rushing in the first meeting, the most allowed by the Steelers this season.

While Fournette's late burst

skewed the numbers a bit, it was a run made possible by the 36 attempts that came before it as Jacksonville simply wore down Pittsburgh until the Steelers yielded.

More of the same likely arrives this weekend. The Jaguars are hardly apologetic for their approach, one that emphasizes controlling the clock and the tempo.

Belichick knows to how help Pats avoid distractions

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)—Rob Gronkowski says coach Bill Belichick makes it easy for the New England Patriots to ignore distractions such as the one created by last week's ESPN report.

"Throughout my years here I've seen a lot of negative, a lot of positive," Gronkowski said Tuesday as the Patriots prepared for Saturday night's divisional playoff game against the Tennessee Titans.

"The reputation that Coach tries to get us to have is just ignore the noise—ignore the noise from the outside and I feel like that's what myself and a lot of other players have been doing.

"You just gotta ignore the noise and just focus on what we've been doing all year and that's preparing hard, studying our opponent, getting ready, mentally and physically for the big game, so what's going on on the outside, as a team, as an organization, just gotta keep grinding, keep going, keep doing our job."

Gronkowski, healthy this season after missing last year's Super Bowl-winning run, said such "noise" will "if anything it's just going to bring us closer and it's going to bond us together."

The report concerned the relationship among team owner Robert Kraft, Belichick and Tom Brady, focusing on Brady's role in the trading of backup quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo to the San Francisco 49ers for a second-round draft pick.

Earlier Tuesday, Brady reacted strongly to the claim he was involved in moving Garoppolo, who won five straight games for his new team down the stretch of the season.

"I think that's just such a poor characterization of anything. In 18 years, I've never celebrated when someone has been traded, been cut," Brady said on his weekly appearance on Boston radio station WEEI.

"I would say that's disappointing to hear that someone would express that, or a writer would express that, because

it's so far from what my beliefs are about my teammates."

He continued, saying, "I would never, ever feel that way about when Jimmy got traded, when Jacoby (Brissett) got traded. I've kept in touch with all those guys. When Matt Cassel was gone. All these guys I've worked with, I felt like I had such a great relationship with all the quarterbacks I've worked with. I kept in touch with basically everybody. So to characterize that as a certain way is just completely, completely wrong."

Gronkowski was asked if Brady is amped up even more than usual.

"I've gotten that question many times throughout my career and I've said this many times -- it's hard to see him go to another level of intensity because he's always intense, he's always preparing hard," Gronkowski said.

"I've just seen him do the same old that he does every week, prepare hard, practice hard and get ready for the game."

Panthers fire offensive coordinator Shula, QBs coach Dorsey

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Panthers coach Ron Rivera fired longtime offensive coordinator Mike Shula on Tuesday, saying the team's offense needs a "different perspective."

Along with Shula, the Panthers also cut ties with quarterbacks coach Ken Dorsey two days after a playoff loss to the New Orleans Saints.

"I believe we need some different ideas going forward," Rivera said at a news conference.

Shula spent seven seasons with Carolina, working as the quarterbacks coach before being promoted to offensive coordinator in 2013.

Carolina was 11-5 this season and finished 19th in total offense, but again struggled moving the ball through the air and was 28th in passing. The Panthers were 12th in scoring.

Rivera said the Panthers

already have "a few" candidates in mind, and strongly hinted it will be someone with NFL experience, not a college coach, from outside the organization.

Among some of the potential candidates that make sense are Norv Turner, whose son Ron was hired as an offensive consultant by the Panthers last June, and Rob Chudzinski, who worked as the team's offensive coordinator in 2011 and 2012 before taking over as the head coach of the Cleveland Browns.

Rivera was a defensive coach under Turner with the then-San Diego Chargers from 2007-10.

"It signals an opportunity that we are looking to get better and continue to grow," Rivera said.

"That is what the move was made for. Something different, something addi-

tional can give us the boost that I'm looking for that can help us get to the ultimate goal, and that is winning the Super Bowl."

The news comes one day after Rivera seemed to give his entire coaching staff an endorsement.

However, the two-time AP Coach of the Year said he woke up at 3 in the morning and began looking at his notes.

He started to have second thoughts and decided to meet with interim general manager Marty Hurney about the decision.

Then he made the change.

Rivera was vague on exactly what bothered him about the offense this past season and prompted the change in thinking, but when asked about the team's lack of an identity he said, "you want to be able to understand this is who we are and this is what we do."

Randle, Ball power Lakers past Kings, 99-86



LOS ANGELES (AP)—Julius Randle had 22 points and 14 rebounds, Lonzo Ball added 11 rebounds and 11 assists, and the Los Angeles Lakers defeated the Sacramento Kings 99-86 on Tuesday night.

Brook Lopez scored 18 points and Kentavious Caldwell-Pope had 16 for the Lakers, who have won two straight following a nine-game losing streak.

Bogdan Bogdanovic scored 19 points off the bench for the Kings, who have lost five of six. De'Aaron Fox had 15 points and Buddy Hield scored 13.

With Ball leading the charge, the Lakers were at their most effective when pushing the ball up the court. They had a 35-8 advantage in fast-break points, and Ball's 11 assists were his most since the rookie returned from a recent shoulder injury that sidelined him for six games. He finished with five points.

Los Angeles opened an 84-74 lead going into the fourth quarter, closing the third on a 22-10 run. Sacramento started the second half with a 14-3 surge to take an eight-point lead before Lopez hit three 3-pointers. Lopez then missed from long range, but Ball was under the basket for a putback. Lopez finished 5 of 8 from 3-point range.

The Lakers went on a 19-0 run in the first quarter fueled by eight points from Brandon Ingram and seven from Randle, who had 13 points and five rebounds in the first half.

Heat 90, Raptors 89

In Toronto, Wayne Ellington leads Miami in 3-pointers, which made Tuesday's game-winning basket a bit of a surprise.

Ellington converted a go-ahead driving layup with less than a second remaining, and the Heat stopped Toronto's 12-game home winning streak



Los Angeles Lakers guard Lonzo Ball, right, backs up against Sacramento Kings guard De'Aaron Fox during the first half of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, Jan. 9, 2018, in Los Angeles.

with a close over the Raptors.

"That's probably the last thing anybody would think that he would do is put the ball on the floor," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "I think it caught everybody by surprise, including me."

It was the only basket of the second half for Ellington, who finished with 15 points.

Ellington said he considered shooting after catching the inbounds pass from Goran Dragic, but decided to drive along the baseline past Toronto's Pascal Siakam before laying the ball in off the glass.

"I looked at the rim and I saw him just charging hard," Ellington said. "Obviously, that's what they wanted to take away from me, was that 3-ball in the corner. I was able to get loose, man, and get around him."

Like his coach, Dragic also

was surprised when Ellington didn't launch a 3.

"I thought he was going to shoot it but he made a great read," Dragic said.

Dragic had 24 points and matched his career high with 12 rebounds as Miami extended its season-best winning streak to five. Bam Adebayo had 16 points and a career-high 15 rebounds and Hassan Whiteside collected 13 points and 15 boards for the Heat, who had dropped their previous five visits to Toronto.

The Raptors were without point guard Kyle Lowry after the three-time All-Star bruised his tailbone during Monday's overtime win at Brooklyn.

Mavericks 114, Magic 99

In Dallas, Dennis Smith Jr. and Yogi Ferrell helped set

the pace for the Dallas Mavericks in their win over the Orlando Magic.

It started with rebounding.

The 6-foot Ferrell led the team with eight boards, the 6-3 Smith had seven and the Mavericks used that spark to get offense going the other way.

"Me and Yogi run (after rebounding)," Smith said. "We find each other on the break pretty well, and when we can get into the paint it opens up the floor for everybody."

Ferrell said it was a result of the rest of the team boxing out, and he just benefited by grabbing the ball.

"Those guys do the hard part. We do the easy part and get boards," Ferrell said. "When we do that it gets our break started a lot quicker."

It also led to a balanced scoring output for Dallas.

Dirk Nowitzki and Smith each scored 20 points as the Mavericks stopped a three-game slide. Wesley Matthews had 16 points for Dallas, which got its first win since Dec. 31 against Oklahoma City.

Trail Blazers 117, Thunder 106

In Oklahoma City, while Damien Lillard tries to get past a lingering injury, the Portland Trail Blazers are relying on each other to fashion a nice run of positive results.

CJ McCollum had 27 points and seven assists, and the Trail Blazers beat the Oklahoma City Thunder 117-106 on Tuesday night in the opener of a four-game trip.

Shabazz Napier added 21 points and Jusuf Nurkic had 20 points and eight rebounds for Portland, which moved

past Oklahoma City into second in the Northwest Division standings with its seventh win in its last nine games against the Thunder.

Portland has won four of five overall despite playing most of that stretch without Lillard, who sat out for the seventh time in the last nine games with a left calf strain.

"There's not as much pressure," McCollum said. "Obviously, you're down a guy like Damien, who's able to do everything . and can take over a quarter and bail us out at times. When we come on a road trip like this, the guys are like, 'Oh, Damien's hurt. We're not supposed to win.' I think everybody plays a little bit looser, understanding that we're playing against upper-tier Western Conference competition."

SPAIN (AP)—Philippe Coutinho completed his record-breaking move to Barcelona on Monday and thanked the club for its patience after the disappointment of the failed negotiations with Liverpool last year.

Liverpool rejected repeated bids in August but finally gave into Coutinho's demands to leave after sealing a transfer deal worth up to 160 million euros (\$192 million), making the Brazilian playmaker Barcelona's costliest ever signing.

"I just want to thank the club for its patience and its effort," Coutinho said. "I'm very happy, this is a dream come true for me and I hope to live up to the expectations."

Coutinho completes move to Barcelona

Coutinho was introduced to the fans at Camp Nou after signing his contract, but his debut will be delayed by about three weeks because of a right leg muscle injury confirmed during the medical he underwent after arriving from England.

The 25-year-old Coutinho missed both of Liverpool's games last week because of the injury which coincided with the transfer being finalized quickly at the start of the January transfer window.

Coutinho won't be allowed to play for Barcelona in the Champions League knockout

phase because he has already featured for Liverpool in the competition this season.

"I'll have plenty of time to help the club in the future," he said after signing a 5 1/2-year contract. "Sometimes you don't get another opportunity like this, to join Barcelona, so I didn't think twice."

But Liverpool wasn't such a willing seller.

"They understood that it was what I wanted," Coutinho said. "They did all they could to try to keep me, but in the end they understood that it

was my dream, and the dream of my family, to come here."

Coutinho has previously played in Spain at Espanyol after being sent out on loan from Serie A club Inter Milan, which signed him as a teenager from Brazilian club Vasco da Gama.

Coutinho had hoped to be part of a Barcelona side leading the Spanish league by nine points far earlier. Liverpool refused to release him in August unless the Spanish club paid 200 million euros (then \$237 million). Barcelona said that fee would have been an "ir-



responsible" financial risk for the club.

"It hasn't been easy, but his desire to come and his patience were key," club president Josep Bartomeu said. "We need to thank Liverpool as well for agreeing to negotiate, because otherwise this wouldn't have been possible."

"We are thrilled that one of the best players in the world is now with Barcelona."

Coutinho's fee is surpassed only by deals negotiated in August by Paris Saint-Germain for Neymar and Kylian Mbappe.

Coutinho was Barcelona's

main target after Neymar's departure, but the club ended up signing 20-year-old France forward Ousmane Dembele after the failed negotiations with Liverpool.

Coutinho's transfer surpasses the previous club record set by Dembele, whose fee was an initial 105 million euros (\$126 million) that could eventually rise to 147 million euros (\$176 million) depending on his success.

Barcelona has now reinvested the 222 million euros it received from PSG for Neymar.

"He is a great player, but we have different characteristics," Coutinho said of fellow Brazilian, Neymar. "I'm here to try to gain my space in the team."

First win gives Djokovic major confidence boost

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)— Novak Djokovic stopped quickly, abruptly changed directions and stabbed at a full-stretch volley that whizzed past Dominic Thiem for a winner.

He then turned and beamed. Djokovic is back after the longest injury layoff of his career and he's clearly enjoying himself on the court again.

Wearing a compression sleeve on his right arm to protect his troublesome elbow, Djokovic dominated the fifth-ranked Thiem 6-1, 6-4 on Wednesday in an exhibition match at the Kooyong Classic, a key tune-up event for next week's Australian Open.

Still smiling afterward, Djokovic said he'd had doubts whether he'd be ready to play the first Grand Slam of the



AP
Novak Djokovic reacts after winning against Dominic Thiem in their match in the Kooyong Classic tennis tournament at Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.

year, but the win over Thiem was a major confidence boost.

"Obviously, I was waiting for this moment for six months to get out on the court and play a match," he said. "Also, I got a great opponent today, the No. 5 in the world, so it was a fantastic test for me to see where I am."

Djokovic, who had been sidelined with the elbow injury since a quarterfinal loss at Wimbledon last year, initially planned to play in an exhibition event in Abu Dhabi and then a tournament in Qatar to start the season, but withdrew from both due to lingering pain in his elbow.

He still traveled to Melbourne hoping to be fit to play in the Australian Open, where

he's won six of his 12 career Grand Slam titles. Despite playing pain-free on Wednesday, he said he's still taking it "day by day."

"I don't want to be overconfident," he said. "Obviously, I'm very, very happy with the way it went today, but I don't want to say it's 100 percent. I'll say that when I start a tournament and when I get to actually feel that it's 100 percent. For now, I'm in the (Australian Open) and let's hope with God's grace that everything will be fine in the next five days."

Djokovic displayed few signs of rust after his lengthy time away from the game, hitting penetrating groundstrokes deep into the corners, moving extremely well and volleying with precision.

He also unveiled a more compact service motion intended to put less pressure on his elbow that resulted in three aces in a single game against Thiem in the first set.

Dodgers to pay White Sox \$3M, receive \$1M from Royals



KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—

The NL champion Dodgers will send \$3 million to the Chicago White Sox and receive \$1 million from Kansas City as part of last week's three-team trade that sent left-handed reliever Scott Alexander from the Royals to Los Angeles.

Los Angeles agreed to give the White Sox equal install-

ments of \$1.5 million on June 1 and Sept. 1. Kansas City will pay the Dodgers \$500,000 on each of those two dates.

Chicago got relievers Luis Avilan and Joakim Soria in Thursday's trade, and the Dodgers obtained minor league infielder Jake Peter. The Royals added two minor leaguers, 24-year-old right-hander Trevor Oaks

and 23-year-old infielder Erick Mejia.

Soria has a \$9 million salary this year, and his contract includes a \$10 million mutual option with a \$1 million buyout. Avilan is eligible for arbitration and is expected to have a salary of about \$2.5 million.

In Los Angeles, free-agent catcher Rene Rivera and the Los Angeles Angels have

agreed to a one-year contract.

Rivera has played for six teams over nine seasons in a major league career that began with Seattle. He split last season between the New York Mets and Chicago Cubs, batting .252 with 10 homers and 35 RBI in 74 games.

The 34-year-old Rivera has a strong arm behind the plate, throwing out 36.8 percent of attempted base-stealers.

DICKINSON

From Page 28

School, Desert Mirage High School, Twentynine Palms High School, and Yucca Valley High School.

"Our season will start late this month and I am excited for this opportunity to play in the U.S.," Dickinson told *Saipan Tribune*. "I will be trying out for third base and pitcher. My first day with the team was good. My teammates and coaches are so welcoming and always want you to do your best."

Dickinson is bringing with

him an impressive Little League record when he suits up for his new squad this month. The 16-year-old was a member of the CNMI All-Star Team that played in the Asia Pacific Regional Tournament in all three divisions—Major, Junior, and Senior. Dickinson was part of the CNMI Little League All-Stars that defeated powerhouse Chinese-Taipei, 3-2, in 2014, making a home run in that historic win and pitching without relief.

He won numerous individual awards, including the coveted regular season and Fi-

nals MVP plums in his Saipan Little League Baseball's playing years. Dickinson was the Finals MVP in the Junior League in 2016 and was part of the Tanapag Falcons Senior League Team that won back-to-back championships in the SLLB.

Initially, the many-time CNMI All-Star planned to play for the Falcons anew in the Senior League this season, but was told he will be over the age limit (16) when competition starts. Dickinson's mom, Melissa, said his son was crushed when he learned the bad news. However, later

he realized it was time for him to move up and challenge himself to play in the mainland.

"He is beyond excited for this chance and has always wanted to move while he was in high school to finish his education and play baseball in the states. He's just following his dreams and it's a blessing he has the chance to do so," Melissa said.

"I want to accomplish my dreams and one of them is to play high school baseball and slowly make my way up to college and then further," Spencer said.

SWEEP

From Page 28

while *Saipan Tribune* (2-3) withstood Shirley's Coffee Shop's comeback bid for a 54-47 triumph in the second game. Kanoa Resort (4-1) completed last weekend's winners list when it topped POI Aviation (3-2) in the nightcap, 64-60.

Young guns Djay Ong and Hark Galarion delivered for *Saipan Tribune* with the former firing a game-high 22 points and the latter chipping in 15.

Ong's triple and feed to Louie Calayag down to the last two minutes and change of the game bailed *Saipan Tribune* out after Shirley's moved within 3, 38-41. Before the

near meltdown, *Saipan Tribune* led by as much as 17 points in the first half, 23-6, and jumped to a 13-0 start, as Shirley's showed up with only five players at the beginning of the match.

Reinforcements then came in for Shirley's with Junar Guiab and John Jugos leading the squad's fightback in the second half. While Shirley's picked up its scoring in the final half, *Saipan Tribune* slowed down, making only a free throw, courtesy of Ong's split, in the first six minutes of that period.

Shirley's continued its uphill climb in the second half and was still in the game down by 4, 47-51, with about 30

seconds left on the clock when Jugos missed a triple and Angel Catungal also faltered on his point-blank shot.

After Shirley's muffed attempts, *Saipan Tribune* finally secured the rebound and Galarion bravely took a corner triple and nailed it in, sealing the win for his team. Before that dagger, Galarion, who knocked in two shots from downtown in the first half, missed all his four attempts from beyond the arc in the second.

Meanwhile, Fiesta worked in the second half to keep Lower Base winless.

Fiesta was on top by only 3 at the break, 32-29, but when the game resumed, it asserted its dominance on offense for a

14-point winning margin.

Troy Ngirarois and Wilfredo Francisco finished in twin digits for Fiesta with 14 and 11, respectively, while six of their teammates scored at least 5 markers each. William Benavente led Lower Base with his 14 points.

In the final game last weekend, Kanoa Resort drew 31 points from Douglas Schmidt to top POI.

Schmidt made baskets in streaks and got enough help from his teammates to foil POI's repeated comeback bids. His longest scoring run came in the first half when he tallied 13 straight points to hand Kanoa a 33-24 halftime lead. He was then held to 8 markers in the second

half, but his teammates stepped up to keep Kanoa on top.

Dindo Pablo added 11 points for Kanoa, 9 of them came in the second half, while Moises De Arroz, Carl Francisco, and Sonny Encarna contributed 4 points each. Jesse Santos had 18 markers on a losing effort for POI.

First Game

Fiesta 72 — Ngirarois 14, Francisco 11, Arreza 9, Sedillo 7, Villamena 6, Demafelix 6, Nonato 6, Esdrelon 5, Malawanag 4.

Lower Base 58 — W. Benavente 14, Jinang 13, Kenty 9, Echavez 8, Riungel 6, Alegre 4, Camu 3.

Scoring by halves: 32-29, 72-58.

in the main draw. He challenged No. 3 Nicholas Bisa and lost in the opening round of the qualifier, 1-6, 6-2. Lee was then relegated to the consolation draw and this time topped Liam Ragas Judd, 6-4, 6-2. Up next for the CNMI player will be No. 11 seed Jacob Collison, who fell to Dylan Vaughan in the battle for one of the spots in the main draw.

In the girls U14 singles, Kaga was entered in the main draw, but bowed to No. 8 seed Jennifer McDonald in the first round, 3-6, 3-6.

Kaga and Lee, before playing in Victoria, saw action in the Margaret Court Cup in New South Wales. Once they completed their second and last tournament this week, they will head back to Melbourne to watch the Australian Open and then return to Saipan on Jan. 17.

Second Game

Saipan Tribune 54 — D. Ong 22, Galarion 15, Calayag 5, Orbeta 5, Calibo 5, J. Ong 2.

Shirley's 47 — Jugos 17, Guiab 10, Laxa 6, Nicdao 4, Bordon 4, Catungal 2, Alonzo 2.

Scoring by halves: 34-30, 54-47.

Third Game

Kanoa Resort 64 — Schmidt 31, Pablo 11, Encarna 6, Francisco 4, De Arroz 4, Joab 2, Patricio 2.

POI Aviation 60 — Santos 18, Arago 10, Kaipat 7, Yu 5, Nakashima 6, Paran 5, Bait 3, Pascual 2, Delos Sanros 2, Kim 2.

Scoring by halves: 33-24, 64-60.

NMIFA Goalkeeping Clinic

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



A participant in the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association Goalkeeping Clinic bends to catch the ball during a drill at the Koblerville Elementary School Field last month.



An MP United Football Club member catches the ball, while other participants of the clinic wait for their turn.



Players line up while waiting for the start of their respective drills.



Clinic participants gather around to watch a demonstration of goalkeeping techniques.



Players do drills to learn goalkeeping skills.



CNMI goalkeeper Chris Aninzo, back row left, and coach Jacky Lee, second row right, pose with players who attended the first of a series of goalkeeping clinics last month.



Clinic participants watch CNMI goalkeeper Chris Aninzo demonstrate the proper positioning when getting ready to block the ball in a penalty shootout.



CNMI goalkeeper Chris Aninzo, second right, gives instructions to participants of the clinic.



Steelers prepping
for heavy dose of
Jaguars' run game

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Randle, Ball
power Lakers past
Kings, 99-86

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Dickinson to play baseball in US

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Former Tanapag Falcons pitcher Spencer “The Big Daddy” Dickinson is taking the first step toward his goal of playing in the collegiate ranks, as he left the island last month to suit up for a high team school in California.

Dickinson is now with Rancho Mirage High School, which plays in the De Anza League. De Anza is the California high school sports league covering San Bernardino County, California and Riverside County. Dickinson’s school competes with five others—Coachella Valley High School, Desert Hot Springs High School and Riverside County. Dickinson’s school competes with five others—Coachella Valley High School, Desert Hot Springs High School and Riverside County. Dickinson’s school competes with five others—Coachella Valley High School, Desert Hot Springs High School and Riverside County.

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Spencer Dickinson, seen here pitching for the Tanapag Falcons during last year’s Saipan Little League Baseball, will be playing high school baseball in the U.S. later this month.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan Tribune’s Djay Ong stretches for a layup against Shirley’s Coffee Shop’s Isaiah Bordon during the first half of their game in the 2017 TanHoldings Inter-Company Basketball League last Friday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Sweep for Fiesta; 2nd win for Saipan Tribune

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Inter-Company Basketball League,

while Saipan Tribune notched its second win last Friday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Fiesta Resort played in the curtain-raiser and improved to a 5-0 record following a 72-58 victory over Lower Base Warriors (0-5).

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Sean, Conatsu survive doubles opener

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



The CNMI’s Sean Lee and Conatsu Kaga are playing in their second tournament in Australia and prevailed in their opening doubles match in the Victorian Grass Court Championships at the Wodonga Tennis Centre.

Kaga was paired anew with the Solomon Islands’ Sorika Morgan and they swept Victoria’s Abbey Mcphee and Northern Territory’s Patsy Pamela Ryan Betts in the first round of the girls U14 doubles event yesterday, 6-1, 6-3. With their victory, the Pacific Oceania Touring Team players advanced to the quarterfinals and will be pitted against No. 2 seed Chloe

Anne Brereton and Grace Foundation of Victoria. The Aussies made it to the Round of 8 automatically after drawing a bye in the first round.

Kaga and Morgan’s fellow Pacific Oceania player, Penina Kamu of Samoa, is also in the quarterfinals

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Sean Lee reaches in to return a low ball during a training session with sister Carol last month at the Kanoa Resort courts.